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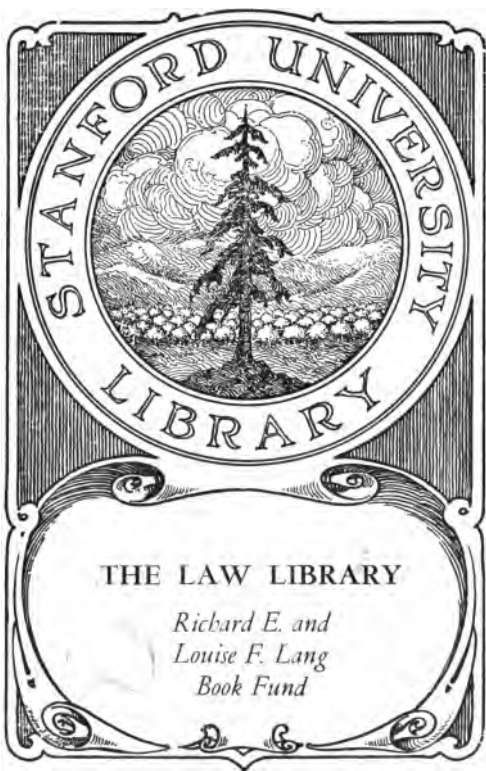
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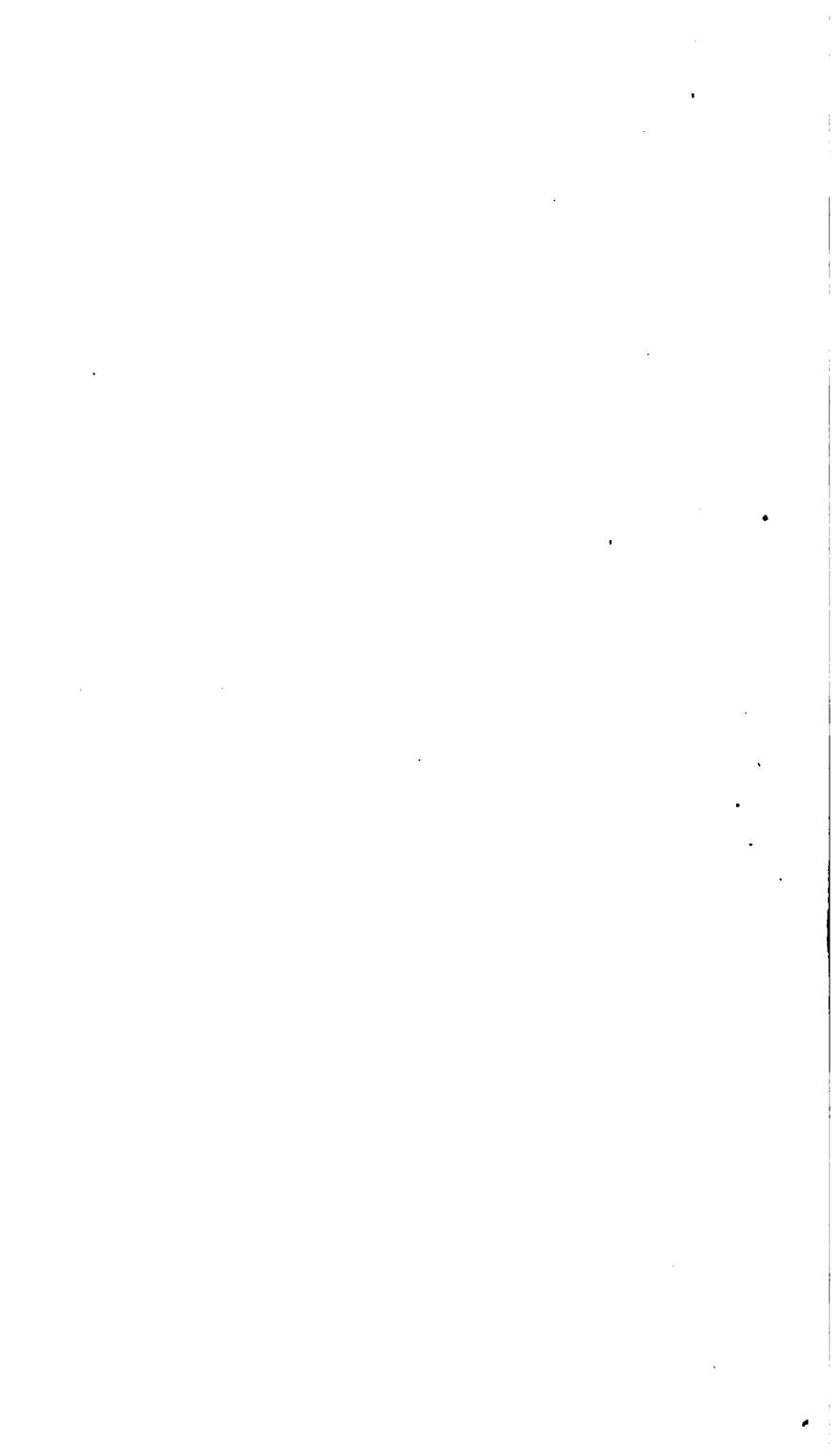
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# The Queen.

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## THE CONSPIRACIES

Of 1806 and 1813,

AGAINST THE

PRINCESS OF WALES

LINKED WITH THE

ATROCIOUS CONSPIRACY of 1820,

AGAINST

THE QUEEN OF ENGLAND!

Also,

Some Correspondence

*Held with His Majesty's Ministers in 1812 and 1813,*

ON THE SUBJECT OF THE "ATROCIOUS ACCUSATION" OF 18

BY

WILLIAM CAREY.

"Wherever indirect means are resorted to against an accused person, strong and general conclusion is drawn, that *real proofs* are wanting: and, such cases, the general legal presumption that every accused person is innocent, until the contrary is legally proved against him, becomes strengthened by additional presumptions, that the crime charged is utterly destitute of foundation." (See page 61).

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# **ERRATUM.**

Page 64, ninth line from the bottom, for "is proved;" read, "is legally proved."

**B. CLARKE, Printer, Well Street, London.**

## INTRODUCTION.

DRIVEN from England, by every species of cruelty and insult, and by the open encouragement given to the conspirators against her life and honor, Caroline-Amelia of Brunswick, the Princess of Wales, quitted this country, for peace and safety, in 1814. During six years, she passed in exile, from place to place, from city to city, a princess without royal state, a wife without a husband, a mistress surrounded by suborned traitors in her own servants, a mother without a child. History has no example of a spirit so noble in unmerited suffering, a fortitude so meek and so immoveable. During these six years, the blood-hound vigilance of conspiracy pursued her steps, by sea and land, in Germany, Italy, Greece, Asia, and Africa. The spies of an English faction, and the taxes wrung from the distressed English people, the shameful intrigues of English ambassadors and consuls, and the power of foreign sovereigns, were employed to renew the vile practices of the Douglas plot in 1806, by forging materials from her most innocent words, looks, and actions, for her dethronement and degradation. Whether the Treasury bank notes and guineas had not power to corrupt the Turks and Moors, or other barbarous Infidels of the rude countries through which the Princess passed; or that the witness-brokers, who speculated on her destruction, feared to trust the relenting humanity of wild and savage hordes, may be a question. But, certain it is, that hitherto, no Arab, no Ethiop, nor Disciple of Mahomet, has taken their hire, to depose against Her Majesty. The white Christians of Italy, the preachers of morals, law, and order, in England, have, as yet, had all the black and appalling infamy of this atrocious plot to themselves.

At length, in 1820, George the Third, her friend, and paternal protector, expired; and, even before his funeral had taken place, the very day that her natural protector ascended the throne, was chosen, to commence, by the



evidence of hired foreigners, that work of her destruction, which her enemies had failed to accomplish in 1806, by the perjury of the Douglasses and their suborned accomplices. The formidable levies of so many years were hastily put in motion. The *colonels, counsellors, solicitors, and Vilmarcaties*, the discarded lacquies, and scullions, and chambermaids, the sailors, and bricklayers, white-washers, and ostlers, the filth and offal, and scourings from the lowest dregs of the populace, in the various countries through which the Princess had passed, were banded in array against her, with the potentates of Austria, Naples, Germany, France and Holland, the police constables of London and Westminster, and the Downing Street members of this UNHOLY ALLIANCE, at their head. The green-bag board of ordnance put their trained bands on full pay, for the opening of the campaign. After having hunted their devoted victim with calumnies, premeditated insults, and inhuman cruelty, until they had left her, like Noah's dove, without a resting place abroad, when she approached England, they sent forth their right trusty and noble ambassador, leaving her no choice between £50,000. a-year, and the branded name, which they hoped to fasten on her in perpetual banishment, or the threat of prosecution on setting her foot in England, implying a certain trial, a sure sentence, and an ignominious death upon the scaffold. The prospect, indeed, was appalling. The smooth, dark craft of statesmen, who scruple not the accursed maxim, "to do evil that good may come;" the dangerous hypocrisy of canting moral-mongers, whose holiness is as a fruit fair and tempting without, but all rottenness and worms within; the deadly malice, which had been accumulating since the first wrongs heaped upon Her Royal Highness in 1796; the whole paramount influence of "the Powers that be," lined the British shores to oppose her landing. They would have had a Princess of Brunswick to become an accomplice against herself, and to sign an instrument for her own destruction; a Queen of England to barter her state and dignities for perpetual exile and degradation! But this magnanimous Heroine proved herself worthy of empire, worthy of the English Throne. With the conscious elevation of a Queen, she, at once, indignantly and proudly, rejected all terms, but a fair and open trial, or a full and immediate restoration to the rights and royalties of her crown and dignity, with an open acknowledgment of her unspotted innocence. It is in the greatness of her own soul we are to look for the

grandeur of her determination. She did not take this resolution, in the midst of a circle of lords and courtiers, nor with a formidable army at her back, prepared for the invasion of England. But she had, at her side, a treasure, which kings often want even in the hour of prosperity. In a *British merchant*, in *Mr. Alderman Wood*, she possessed "*the noblest work of God, an honest man.*" The independent spirit, the manliness, the temperate zeal, and unshaken loyalty of this faithful subject, have endeared him to all honest men, and given his name a shining place in the page of history.

The Queen landed, and reached the capital, amidst the love, and prayers, and joyful acclamations of her faithful people. The panic of conscious guilt, the cold paralysis of a premeditated atrocity, seized her enemies. Dreading their hired witnesses, apprehensive of discovery and defeat, startled by the prospect of impeachment and the block, they would have capitulated; and, again anxious for their own escape, they offered terms. But, heaping oppression upon oppression, and wrong upon wrong, these inhuman and merciless persecutors, at the end of twenty-four years of unmerited conjugal injuries, would have the weaker party, the sufferer and the innocent, to consent, herself, by a public act, and a fresh sacrifice, to a *last surrender*, incompatible with her honor. At that moment, when humanity wept and trembled, and simulation, cloaked in the outward sanctities of religion, had marked her fall, a deep prayer ascended to Heaven in her behalf, from the fire-side sympathies of England; from the chaste wives and mothers, the true husbands and fathers, from the hearts and souls of the whole of her faithful subjects. Her noble nature rose superior to this last hard trial: she stood firm, and rejected the insidious and dishonorable proposition. With the commanding ascendancy, which God has so largely blessed her with, she calmly braved the crisis. London was surrounded, and entered, by forty thousand troops; trains of artillery paraded the streets; and fortifications were erected, as if the capital was about to stand a sack or siege immediately. Thus entrenched, steelled against the feelings of nature, deaf to the voice of the public, the managers of the tragedy opened their green bags; the grave actors entered upon the stage; and the examination of the foreign witnesses, *hired for the degradation of a CROWNED HEAD*,\* began.

In 1806, the conspirators swore to such a long, conti-

\* From the moment of King George the Third's death, Queen Caroline-Amelia was *virtually* crowned.

nued course of adulteries, as would have converted Montague House into a filthy den of impurity: they swore also to a pregnancy, and the birth of a male child. Their atrocious accusation, if proved, amounted to a mass of high-treasons, to be visited by the capital punishment of death. The chief conspirators were persons of rank, a knight and his lady. Sir John Douglas had obtained some name by military service, before he fell into the indelible infamy of that foul plot. But Lucifer was high in heaven before hell became the punishment of his rebellion. In 1820, the hired levies from Germany and Italy shew neither rank nor respectability. They have been raked up from among the lowest classes and descriptions upon the continent, to effect that which the infamous English knight and his lady failed to accomplish in 1806. The advantage was all on the side of the former conspiracy. The kindness of the Princess to a child, the son of poor parents, was converted into the foundation of the Douglas plot. Her attention to a domestic, whose zeal and fidelity were found to be incorruptible by the bribes of her enemies, and whose courage and penetration were essential to her personal safety and preservation, from the malice which pursued her, was the basis of the green-bag atrocity in 1820. Thus, in each instance, out of her virtues they would work her ruin. They swore, in the vile language of Lady Douglas, to a succession of "*bed-fellows*" at Blackheath. But, seeing that the outrageous excess of their monstrous falsehoods rendered them utterly incredible in 1806, they have affected to give the object of their flagitious villainy a temperance in crime in her exile. They now make her constant to *one*; and, having hired miscreants to depose to circumstances of adulterous intercourse, spread out into six years, and extending to Germany, Italy, Greece, Asia, and Africa, they have depended upon disgusting the public by a succession of obscene inventions and filthy devices: but the whole amounts to the one crime with one person, resting on the rottenness of *lucre*, false in the main, and false in all its parts.

The perjured conspirators, the knight and his lady, swore "circumstantially" to forty times more, in a succession of promiscuous adulteries; yet, to repeat the strong expression of a great law authority, all proved "false as hell!" I have read all the depositions out of mere curiosity, from the convenient memory of the postillion, *Non mi Ricordo*, the crafty slanders of the brazen-faced and black-hearted *fille de chambre*, *De Mont*, to the filthy and ill-conceived lesson of impossibility retailed by the courier Sacqui, and all the other inconsistent, contradictory, miserable trash

of the hired daily labourers employed for the dethronement and degradation of the Queen of England; and I am happy to be able to affirm, with the earnest sincerity which must attend my dying pillow, that every successive evidence, examined to defame Her Majesty, has only more strongly proved the conspiracy against her. The result of the whole, on my mind, is a clear impression of Her Majesty's entire innocence, and of the deep-laid and abominable villainy plotted for her destruction. I am satisfied, from the striking out her name from the liturgy, the bringing in a bill of pains and penalties as a punishment before trial, and from the unalterable resolution to strip her of the means of defence, and render it impossible for her to disprove the falsehoods deposed against her, that some unknown barbarous and remorseless faction, which had consented to become the instrument of her dethronement, not only knew the entire falsehood of the accusation, but that its members were themselves the first instigators of these vile inventions.

I would not take away the life of a beetle, nor the character of a worm, upon the whole of their evidence. The question is not for Englishmen, how probable or improbable are the matters sworn by those hired wretches. The whole basis upon which their tales rest, sinks at once, and leaves nothing in its place but eternal infamy on their atrocious employers, when we recollect that they have been hired and paid, or are to be paid for it, out of the English taxes. We know that the prime suborner of 1806 was rewarded with one of the most lucrative posts in the empire; that the infamous chief conspirator of that year was made a major-general; and that Majocchi was a visitor in "*the house with great pillars*," even before he swore as a hired witness against the Queen. The question is not, therefore, about what these miscreants from the continent have sworn; but the question of retribution on the heads of the chief conspirators in 1820, is, how many thousands upon thousands have been lavished, and are yet to be lavished, in buying these depositions, to dethrone and degrade the Queen? The whole evidence of those hired assassins, who do the worst of murders with the tongue, is utterly unworthy of credit. While our Downing Street jacobins, in the very excess of their political wisdom, and the hardihood of their rantipole loyalty, are making a philosophical experiment to convince the Radicals of England how many dozen of perjuries, and how many 50,000*l.* of the English taxes are sufficient to

degrade and strip a *crowned head*, they forget that there are apt scholars behind them, eagerly looking on, who will lose no part of the lesson, in spite of my Lord Chancellor's most exquisite attention to *precedents* and profound science in proprieties. These cabinet revolutionists, who laugh at public opinion, and assemble an army of 40,000 soldiers to mock it, rely rather too much on the HOLY ALLIANCE, for the suppression of popular revolutions. They may monopolize the Atlantic Ocean, and bottle it up as a trading commodity, with equal success. The mighty Spirit, which they warred for three-and-twenty years to lay in the *Red Sea*, has risen in the Peninsula, and from the height of the Pyrennees, has given the tremendous signal of Resurrection to all nations. Naples and Portugal have followed; and yet, it is at this awful moment, when every true friend to peace and order would most gladly rally round the throne, and consolidate all the public interests in support of the monarchy, that an *English crowned head* is to be from day to day *plotted down* with grave forms, pious seemings and empty plausibilities in horrid mockery of law, justice, and humanity? When I see this mighty empire, staggering under the heavy weight of her burdens, sick at heart with long sufferings, and pondering in sad and hopeless uncertainty upon her future prospects; when I see this great and mighty empire, thus wantonly and wickedly struck and pressed down, with the huge demoralization of this unparalleled enormity, I cannot help leaning, as it were, over the wall of time, and looking down upon a dismal futurity for the country. But I pray that God may close my eyes in peace, before this guilt, madness, and folly, shall have brought their dreadful consequences into retributive action upon these islands.

Here I beg of the reader to look back upon the first brilliant prospects of the noble-minded Caroline-Amelia of Brunswick, when she accepted the proffered love of the Prince; and landed upon our shore as the lovely herald of joy, hope, and happiness, to the realm. To have a clear view of the dark plots against her now, it is necessary to compare her past with her present sufferings, for our own thorough understanding of this lamentable drama.

On the 8th of April, 1795, the marriage of the Prince of Wales, son of George the Third, was celebrated, and the people manifested an unbounded joy upon the occasion. The royal family appeared highly delighted at the union of the Prince to such a distinguished ornament of her sex, for beauty, grace, and mental endowments; one,

n short, combining every requisite to render her worthy of being the bride to the heir apparent of the crown of Great Britain. The royal bridegroom was then in his thirty-fourth year, of a noble figure, and acknowledged by those, who had the best opportunities of knowing, to be the most accomplished prince in Europe. This opinion was not only prevalent in London, but was confirmed by all the distinguished foreigners who visited England. It may be most truly stated, that no prince was ever so idolised in this country. The Princess Caroline-Amelia-Elizabeth, his Consort, was in her twenty-seventh year, and her amiable qualities had so endeared her to the people of Germany, that multitudes of all ranks followed her with tears, and prayers, and acclamations, on her departure from Brunswick for this country. Her manners were easy and unaffected, and totally free from the cold and haughty reserve of the old German school. She was first cousin to the Prince, being second daughter of the Duke of Brunswick Wolfenbuttle, by Augusta, sister to George the Third.

The Prince's fascinating demeanor had drawn round him the most brilliant society, from his first entrance into life. His gay habits had led him into expenses beyond his income, and involved him to a large amount. It was understood, in the course of the matrimonial negotiation with the King, his royal father, that on his marriage, his debts, which were estimated at about 700,000*l.* were to be paid by the nation; and parliament, with great liberality, voted the large sum of sixty thousand pounds a-year, in quarterly payments, to clear off all his incumbrances. The Duke of Clarence declared, in the debate, on passing the bill, that the Prince had expected the whole of his debts would have been paid off, at once, on his marriage, but he acquiesced in the decision.

The certainty of a direct lineal succession was announced by the Princess's pregnancy in due season. Her Royal Highness was hailed wherever she appeared as the Star of Brunswick. She was exceedingly popular, and the King was attached to her as much as to any of the Princesses, his daughters. The Queen, her *mother-in-law*, in that character, was kind, but never displayed the same warmth.

These happy prospects were soon overcast. A coldness was noticed on the part of the Prince, which gave the Princess much uneasiness and mortification. Even within the first days of her residence in Carlton House, she discovered that marriage had not dissolved his prior at-

tachments, nor even suspended their course. This, to a young wife, who had cherished in her mind a fond scheme of conjugal happiness, was a source of deep regret. But, with a generous and delicate pride, she endeavoured to conceal her wounded spirit. Even before the first month of her marriage was over, before the first week, the Prince had resumed his usual circle, and the Princess was left alone. Some of those court ladies, who, prior to her arrival in England, had occupied a large share of favor, were unwilling to resign their influence, or rather intent upon retaining it by any indirect means. Courtiers, who have generally clear-sighted eyes and sharp ears, soon gathered enough to send abroad a tale, that the wife had not supplanted her predecessors, and that the Princess had not that share in her royal husband's favor to which she was entitled by birth, consanguinity, marriage, personal merits, and the high place which she occupied in the court.

The Princess, with quick feelings, became every day more sensible of this unhappiness. She saw herself surrounded by married rivals, who, notwithstanding their rank, had forfeited all honorable right to enter her presence; who took no pains to conceal their triumphs, and incessantly studied to add to her mortifications. Others sought to ingratiate themselves into her confidence, in order to obtain a better opportunity of injuring her. Her words, her looks, and most innocent actions, were watched and misrepresented to the Prince and to the Queen. As she was a foreigner, under a pretext of instructing her in the most fashionable English dress and manners, deliberate artifices were practised to show her off in a ridiculous light, as one deficient in good taste and elegance. Her messengers were bribed, her servants tampered with, and even her private letters opened in the hope of finding some unguarded expression, or some imprudent complaint, which might afford a pretext for embroiling her with the royal family. It was not possible for her, with a heart surrounded by estrangements, the daily disappointment of hopes and offended pride, to be, at all times, under a restraint in writing to her father, the Duke of Brunswick, and to the Duchess, her mother. The treacherous misinterpretation of a passage in one of her letters, addressed to her parents, made a great noise at that time. A certain countess, of marked notoriety in the fashionable world, had got possession of the packet, by a scandalous meanness and perfidy, and made use of it to gratify her envy, for the worst of purposes.

The King saw enough to know the unhappy state of

affairs, and became uneasy for the probable consequences. He had lived so completely within his domestic circle; and his conduct, as a husband and father, had been so exemplary, that he was more sensible of his daughter-in-law's unmerited situation. As if to atone for the neglect, under which she suffered, he increased his attentions to her, and never withdrew his friendship. The Queen had ascertained the truth, but, unhappily, was blinded by her partiality; and in proportion as the Princess stood more in need of her kind countenance, became more cold.

Although her Royal Highness advanced in her pregnancy, there were no pains taken to conceal the magnitude of her misfortune. Every one round her saw, and knew, that the Prince, though cold and indifferent to his Consort, was devoted to gaiety and pleasure every where else. With all the best materials in his mind, and with strong passions, he was surrounded by brilliant men, who unhappily wanted courage to combine his great qualities, with the best interests and duties of the elevated station, which he was born to fill. The majority in all such situations, are more ready to turn their backs on the neglected consort of a prince, and to study their own views, by ministering to his gratifications, than to hint at restraints. The strongest minds about the heir to the British throne, were intoxicated by the splendor of his rank, and the influence of his personal ascendancy. They were satisfied to acquiesce in circumstances of domestic latitude, over which they could not be supposed to possess a control; and they excused their silence, by professions of delicacy and profound regard for their royal master, without having firmness to advert to consequences, upon which they could not have closed their eyes. Princes may be surrounded by flatterers, and yet be without a friend.

At the end of nine months, on the seventh of January, 1796, the Princess was delivered at Carlton House of an heiress to the British throne. The joy manifested on this occasion, was accompanied by a hope that this first pledge of matrimonial society would have produced a more intimate union. But, unhappily, this prospect was suddenly terminated. In a few months after, Lord Cholmondeley waited upon Her Royal Highness, with a message from her husband, signifying his wish to live altogether separate from her in future. Upon an unoffending wife, only just out of the first year of her marriage, and on a mother only recently delivered of her first child, this blow must have fallen with an overwhelming weight. The high claim of her infant daughter, her own consanguinity



to her husband, and her having been invited by him into England to share his heart and throne, must have added to its keenness and severity. The overthrow of all her hopes as a wife, her degradation from her state and dignity, and the probable consequences to her child, were summed up in that brief notice. The proposition, however veiled, amounted to a banishment from her lawful home; and cast an alarming doubt upon all her future prospects. The Prince did not propose, himself, to quit Carlton House. He did not, he could not mean it: and, although the message was borne to her as a *wish*, it amounted to a *command*, which left her no choice, but the *outside* of the *door*, to seek a shelter for herself and \* the unconscious innocent in her arms, wherever chance, or liking, or the necessity of so sad a visitation might direct her.

Notwithstanding that this message was of such afflicting importance to Her Royal Highness, and so calculated to wound her female pride and delicacy, it was delivered verbally, in that form which rendered the bearer a witness to her painful feelings. From a *female* mouth the shock would have been less humiliating. But, unwilling to leave so strange a matter open to after question, the Princess entreated the noble bearer, Lord Cholmondeley, to request for her a written communication, on the subject, from the Prince. This just foresight produced the letter, a copy of which I have inserted† herein, and which, when

\* “But leaving to your Majesty to reconcile with the marriage vow, the act of driving, by such means, a wife from beneath your roof, with an infant in her arms.”—(Vide the Queen’s letter to the King, Brandenburg House, August 7, 1820.)

Windsor Castle, April 30th, 1796.

+ Madam,

As Lord Cholmondeley informs me that you wish I would define, in writing\*, the terms upon which we are to live, I shall endeavor to explain myself upon that head, with as much clearness, and with as much propriety, as the nature of the subject will admit. Our inclinations are not in our power, nor should either of us be held answerable to the other, because nature has not made us suitable to each other. Tranquil and comfortable society is, however, in our power, let our inter-

\* “The substance of this letter had been previously conveyed in a message through Lord Cholmondeley to Her Royal Highness. But it was thought by Her Royal Highness, to be infinitely too important to rest merely upon a verbal communication, and therefore she desired that His Royal Highness’s pleasure upon it should be communicated to her in writing.” (Note supposed to be by the Princess.)—“The Book.”

we consider the solemn obligations it was intended to dissolve, the elevated rank of the writer, and the illustri-

course, therefore, be restricted to that, and I will distinctly subscribe to the condition\* which you required, through Lady Cholmondeley, that even in the event of any accident happening to my daughter, which I trust Providence in its mercy will avert, I shall not infringe the terms of the restriction by proposing, at any period, a connection of a more particular nature.

I shall now finally close this disagreeable correspondence, trusting that, as we have completely explained ourselves to each other, the rest of our lives will be passed in uninterrupted tranquillity.

I am, Madam,  
With great truth, very sincerely your's,  
(Signed) GEORGE P.

#### The Answer.

"The avowal of your conversation with Lord Cholmondeley, neither surprises, nor offends me. It merely confirmed what you have tacitly insinuated for this twelvemonth. But after this, it would be a want of delicacy, or rather an unworthy meanness in me, were I to complain of those conditions which you impose upon yourself.

"I should have returned no answer to your letter, if it had not been conceived in terms to make it doubtful, whether this arrangement proceeds from you or from me, and you are aware that the credit of it belongs to you alone.

"The letter which you announce to me as the last, obliges me to communicate to the King, as to my sovereign and my father, both your avowal and my answer. You will find enclosed the copy of my letter to the King. I apprise you of it; that I may not incur the slightest reproach of duplicity from you. As I have at this moment no protector but His Majesty, I refer myself solely to him upon this subject, and if my conduct meets his approbation, I shall be in some degree at least consoled. I retain every sentiment of gratitude for the situation in which I find myself, as Princess of Wales, enabled by your means, to indulge in the free exercise of a virtue dear to my heart, I mean charity.

"It will be my duty likewise, to act upon another motive,

\* Upon the receipt of the message alluded to, in the foregoing note, Her Royal Highness, though she had nothing to do but to submit to the arrangement which His Royal Highness might determine upon, desired it might be understood, that she should insist that any such arrangement if once made, should be considered as final. And that His Royal Highness should not retain the right, from time to time, at his pleasure, or under any circumstances, to alter it. (*Note supposed to be by the Princess.*)—"The Book."

ous wife and mother, to whom it was addressed, with all the other circumstances under which it was written, may be fairly pronounced one of the most extraordinary epistles, that has been published in modern times. It will be seen, by the express terms of the principal passage, and by the whole tenor of this singular letter, that the Princess had given no offence; that the Prince had not taken umbrage at any particular act, or at her conduct in general. No fault nor aspersion is assigned for thus discarding her, without ceremony. It establishes the fact that, before any plot was discovered for the destruction of her character, or attempting her life, and when even her after calumniators admitted that her name was unimpeached and pure as unsunned snow, the mere want of *inclination*, on the part of her royal husband, was deemed sufficient ground for coldly despoiling her of her conjugal rights, depriving her of his advice and protection, and banishing her from under his roof, to choose her own abode, and live exposed among the dangers and temptations of the world, under the *sole guardianship of her own discretion*.

No more positive proof can be adduced of the purity of her conduct, in the eyes of the Prince, than this separation, so deliberately proposed and carried into effect, with such a total absence of restriction, and so entire a surrender of guidance as a husband. If His Royal Highness had seen any thing unguarded in the manner of his Consort, or had thought her at all in need of the advice of her natural protector, his own high sense of conjugal honor, and his feelings as a father, would have prevented him from sending the young mother of his only child from the shelter of his house. With such an impression on his mind, the separation which he formally proposed and put in practice, would have been a wilful exposure of his cousin and Consort, to insult, imprudence, or error; and his having so deliberately withdrawn himself from the duty of counsel, support, and guidance as a husband, which the law, religion, humanity, and honor imposed upon him, would, in that case, have been a lamentable neglect and failure, to her, to himself, and the nation. The

that of giving an example of patience and resignation under every trial.

Do me the justice to believe that I shall never cease to pray for your happiness, and to be

Your much devoted  
CAROLINE.

6th of May, 1796.

Prince, beside those great qualities which rendered him the praise and pride of England, was the first gentleman of the age ; and no gentleman, with a thought that was not confidence itself on his mind, would have separated himself, and proposed to send a young wife, a stranger in England, out of his home, in the thirteenth month of her marriage, to live at her own discretion. To withdraw his advice and protection, with a doubt upon his mind, or a belief, that his advice and protection were necessary, would have been a deliberate exposure of his wife, his child, and himself, to an indelible blot and dishonor in the eye of the world. Eleven years afterwards, the Prince's too severe sense of family pride induced him, many months after the acquittal of his Consort in February, 1807, to apply to the King, to prevent her being admitted to court. This fact is proved by the King's letter of the tenth of February, 1807, (p. 204 of "The Book.") Now, can we suppose that this strong feeling would not have prevented His Royal Highness from sending his Consort out of Carlton House, at the risk of every subsequent exposure, if her conduct as a wife had not filled his breast with the most unshaken confidence in her virtue.

Truth and innocence defy every scrutiny. Not only, therefore, does the Prince's letter of the thirtieth of April, 1796, decide in favor of the Princess, but the act of separation, which it, with such unusual confidence, formally proposes, fully establishes the unimpeached conduct and purity of his illustrious Consort, at that day, when called on to submit to so injurious and cruel a wrong. The high and noble spirit of her reply furnishes additional proof. She does not hint at an alleged fault on her side, nor propose any explanation, for nothing particular on her side had occurred. With the delicate pride of wounded conjugal feeling, she merely adverts, in a few words, to unmerited neglect and coldness, and an intended separation, tacitly insinuated, for a *twelvemonth*, that is so early as a week after her marriage. She states, that in conformity with her duty, she will communicate his proposition and her answer to the King, not as matter of complaint, but as an important family affair, for his information. Her affecting expressions, *I have now no protector but His Majesty*, show, that even then, the followers of high favor at court, had, after the fashion of the world, deserted her, as a vessel in danger. Thus far, the pure conduct of the Princess, and the unshaken confidence of the Prince, are clearly established, by a reference to His Royal Highness's conjugal pride and high sense of personal honor.

At a moment when His Royal Highness was, in fact, making his inclination his law, and, by his own authority, absolving himself from the obligations of the marriage contract, covering her name with humiliation, and filling her heart with sorrow, he relied upon her proud feminine integrity, to fulfil, with inviolable fidelity, those duties which the marriage contract imposed upon her!

There is, also, a *public ground*, which, at a later period, furnishes additional irresistible proof. In 1805 and 6 Lord Thurlow is said to have stated a *public duty*, as the cause which necessitated the Prince to lay the false and atrocious accusation of promiscuous adultery, pregnancy, and the birth of a male child, invented by the Douglas conspirators, before the King, because, as his lordship said, “such a report, unless its *falsehood were fairly and fully exposed, might endanger the tranquillity of the state; and afford some wicked pretext for a disputed succession to the throne.*” The four lords commissioners have, also, in their report of the fourteenth of July, 1806, which established the utter falsehood, and proved the conspiracy of the Douglasses, stated, in effect, that this *public duty* rendered it imperative upon the Prince to disclose those dreadful charges to his aged father. The report of the privy council, on the twenty-second of April, 1807, distinctly adverts to this *public duty*, and its having compelled the Prince to that disclosure to the King. Here we find Lord Thurlow, the four lords commissioners, and a privy council, anxious to show, on the side of the Prince, a strong and ostensible cause for his bringing, and having brought, these shocking charges against his Consort before His Majesty. All these authorities state this dread of affording a pretext for a disputed succession to the throne, to have been the Prince’s motive for afflicting the King with that horrid accusation. This dread then formed a paramount duty of the Prince and his friends in 1805 and 6; and can we suppose that His Royal Highness, Lord Thurlow, and the whole of the Prince’s friends had totally forgotten this paramount duty in 1796, when His Royal Highness, her natural protector, sent his cousin and Consort, in the thirteenth month of her marriage, out of Carlton House, deprived of the safeguard of her royal state and dignity, and of his advice, and guidance, to live at her own discretion, and having with her a written declaration from him that she was not an object of his inclination, and must live in separation from his house and bed, for the remainder of her days? Would the Prince and his friends have thus exposed England to the risk of a disputed succession, if

they had seen any indiscretion or levity of conduct, on which even the smallest trace of a doubt could rest?

In proof of the extreme jealousy on the part of the Prince, in whatever relates to the *succession*, we find, that in February, 1813, a privy council was summoned on a similar point, and their printed report contains their advice to his Royal Highness, to restrict the intercourse of the Princess Charlotte, (then grown to womanhood, and *just entered into her eighteenth year*), with the Princess of Wales, her mother. I need not adduce another instance, after this vigilant precaution against any possible chance of a misfortune, to affect the *succession to the throne*, than this dread of hazard from the young Princess's being exposed for even a few hours from Warwick House, and from under the eye of her appointed guardians. Surely the Prince, and those able privy counsellors who manifested such strictness in 1813, in guarding the succession against *improbable possibilities*, would not have left the Princess during a series of years, after 1796, living apart from her husband, and exposed to all possibilities, if they had not the most confident assurance of her virtue, and that there was not the smallest chance of danger to the succession, or the public tranquillity, from her having been left so long without the advice and guidance of her natural protector.

Not only did the Prince, as a husband and father, but as heir to the throne, in his public character, manifest, by the act of separation, in May, 1796, an entire, and I may say, unexampled confidence in her virtue, but the King, the royal dukes, Lord Thurlow, and the whole of the Prince's law friends and counsellors, in and out of parliament, partook of this confidence; or they would have remonstrated against his placing his Consort in a situation, which might expose the country to the dreaded danger of a spurious claim to the crown. I presume that there was no restriction upon Her Royal Highness as to visiting at Carlton House. We cannot suppose that, when she was sent out of that residence in 1796, for no fault but her husband's want of inclination, the Prince forbid her ever entering or visiting there. She was, therefore, free to have visited there on general pretexts, if she had so chosen; and thus, if she had been held in doubt by the Prince, the sending her out would have been a wilful risk of the public tranquillity, and of what Lord Thurlow termed a disputed succession, for any child of the Princess, born under these circumstances, would

have been considered by the law of the land as born of the Prince and his Consort in marriage.

Surely the *Prince* and his royal brothers, and the Princesses, his sisters; surely all the profound law authorities and privy counsellors, the grave dignitaries of the church, and the two houses of parliament, would not have seen the ark of the public safety sent out of Carlton House, in 1796, to risk invasion, shipwreck, and sacrilege, and to endanger the public tranquillity, under the safeguard of the Princess, if her conduct had not produced, on all sides, and in every class, a general conviction that the noble-minded, injured, and oppressed Caroline-Amelia, carried in her own breast her impregnable safeguard.

I consider, therefore, that I have adduced evidence enough for history, to prove that the Princess possessed the well-grounded and entire confidence of the King, the Prince, the royal family, and of all orders and ranks in society, when Her Royal Highness was dismissed in the presence of the capital, with her infant daughter, in so unparelled a manner, from the residence of her natural protector. Not only have I, here, adduced triumphant and irresistible proofs of the spotless purity and innocence of Her Royal Highness, and of her general high character, at that lamentable crisis; but proofs sufficiently strong and clear to settle that question for ever.

Here it is to be observed that, although the law of God and the law of the land were guarantees, upon her marriage, for her full possession of all the state, rights, and privileges of Consort to the Prince, during her natural life, or until her ascending the throne in the lawful order of succession, those binding, sacred, and solemn obligations melted, like wax before the fire, and proved not the slightest defence or avail to her against the Prince's determination. Without any fault alleged, or aspersion afloat, with the most perfect approbation of her innocent demeanour, the purity of her conduct and her conjugal virtue, the *will* of her natural protector, his *want of inclination*, at once sufficed to strip this injured princess of all that was so solemnly guaranteed to her by the divine and human law, and the highest sanctities of human formality at the altar.

The Prince assigned the cause, briefly and unceremoniously, that was to send her outside his door—"OUR INCLINATIONS ARE NOT IN OUR POWER, nor should either of us be held answerable to each other, because nature has not made us suitable to each other." The

privy council, the great law officers, the Archbishop of Canterbury, who had solemnized the marriage ceremony, all the other bishops and public dignitaries, with the high court of parliament itself, were mute. Nither morality, nor order, nor religion, nor the public tranquillity, nor the dread of a disputed succession, warmed a heart, or opened a mouth in her defence. The poorest female in the land holds her marriage rights by a firmer tenure than the Princess (next in succession to the throne of the first empire in the world) held her's. The law that gives the happy wife of the laboring hind, the miner, or the fisherman, a partnership in his bed and board, ensures her possession until death, and nothing but adultery proved in open court, on trial by jury, can dispossess her.

The Princess was now, in the eye of the great world, a discarded wife; and the Prince, in putting her out of his palace, had put her out of *fashion*. Men of long heads have long views; and many, anticipating the possibilities of a new reign, imagined that this determinate step would never have been so publicly taken with the Princess, if other measures were not to follow in due season. All the impure and vile influence that had been endangered by the marriage of the Princess, felt wholly re-assured. The married and single rivals flaunted in her place, and became objects of envy and admiration among the splendid worthlessness and brilliant servility of the day. But Caroline-Amelia, who had parted from Brunswick with the love, and the tears, and the prayers, of the whole population, ceased to be looked on in England, but with the *eyes* of the *Prince*. There are always heralds of good fortune, and harbingers of adversity, who watch the looks of the great; and whoever is in favor with the heir to the throne, is sure to be a lesser deity, and worshipped accordingly. But woe upon the fallen favorite!—There are never wanting parasites and minions, who seek to pay their court by circulating falsehoods at their expense.

The song of Shakespeare's fool applies to all ranks,

“ That, Sir, which serves and seeks for gain,”  
And follows but for form,  
Will pack, when it begins to rain,  
And leave thee in the storm.”

His advice, too, is a lesson well practised—“ Let go thy hold, when a great wheel runs down a hill, lest it break thy neck with following it; but the great one that goes up the hill, let him draw thee after.”—(Lear, Act 2,



Scene 4.) The Princess was not long before she found that the desertion of her husband was a signal for a too general desertion. As soon as it became surmised that to visit her in her retirement would be no recommendation : her retirement was shunned by all the great, and the little, who courted favor. Walter Scott, in the chieftain Douglas, has well painted this dread of looking towards those whom the Prince has ceased to look upon :

“ But not a glance from that proud ring  
Of peers, who circled round the King,  
With Douglas held communion kind,  
Or called the banished man to mind ;  
No, not from those who, at the chase,  
Once held his side, the honored place,  
Begirt his board, and, in the field,  
Found safety underneath his shield ;  
For he, whom royal eyes disown,  
When was his form to courtiers known ! ”

Thus some years passed after her dismissal from Carlton-House, and that circle of political luminaries and eminent men called the *Prince's Friends* were necessarily not among her visitors. Nor indeed was Her Royal Highness of any mark or note for any party except for malice to shoot at. The Prince reached his forty-fourth year ; and the long separation from his Consort gave an assured opinion, that what might have been, at first, supposed a temporary coolness, would now last for ever. The Princess Charlotte was growing up, and flourishing in health and beauty, but she was liable to death, and, in case of that misfortune, there was no other issue by the Prince to inherit the throne. The Prince had declared, in his letter of separation, against a re-union with his Consort ; and deep-thinkers saw in the Princess an existing obstacle to a second marriage that could not be removed but by death or by divorce. As the sight of a rich dwelling in a lonely situation puts ill thoughts into the heads of desperate men, so a queen or princess in disgrace, and standing as a real or supposed obstacle in the way of royalty, suggests a path to favor, which sordid and base minds are eager to tread. There is thus a tacit *subornation* in things *inanimate* : one ill act begets another ; and where *opportune circumstances* offer the hope of rising into eminence at court, by criminating an individual, whose fall may be falsely supposed a wished for object, there is rarely a lack of instruments to set

themselves forward, by fabricating treasonable charges. When King Henry the Eighth wished to divorce Catharine of Arragon, a compliant churchman, and an unprincipled lawyer, were, at once, ready to become panders to his purpose. A severe complaint was exhibited against her in council, by the *chancellor*, that "there was some plot abroad to kill the king, or cardinal, and that *if* she had any hand in it, she *must not expect to be spared*; that she had not showed so much love to the king, either in bed or at board, as she ought; that she rejoiced with music, while the king was full of grief, which must be out of spite to him, since it was contrary to her nature, from which the king concluded that she hated him," and these articles were exhibited against her to intimidate her into a divorce. *Cardinal Wolsey* backed the accusation, and used threatening hints; but, on her continuing firm, Henry, himself, did justice to her character, and quashed the charges. In like manner, when it was known that King Henry had taken some distaste to his sixth wife, Catharine Parr, the *Lord Chancellor, Audley*, and the *Bishop of Winchester*, worked upon the king, so as to obtain his permission to draw up articles against her, which the king signed. But when the *chancellor* came the next day, the queen had got again into favor, and the chancellor and guard were dismissed, with angry reproaches. When his courtiers saw that Charles the Second disliked the person of Queen Catharine of Portugal, his wife, there were not wanting persons to make heinous and treasonable charges against her, and to advise a bill in parliament for a divorce: "But the Duke of Buckingham proposed another way to rid the king of her, He said he would steal her, and send her to a plantation, where she should be well and carefully looked to, but never heard of any more; so it should be given out she had deserted, and upon that it would fall in with some principles to carry an act of divorce. The king would not hear of it, saying, '*Twas wicked to make a poor lady miserable only because she was his wife, and had had no children by him, which was not her fault.* As if indeed he did not make her miserable enough by living in a constant course of adultery, with a company of concubines, who were no more constant to him than he was to his queen.'"

If the Princess, after having been dismissed from her husband's palace in 1796, had lived to 1820, without any accusation or aspersion, she would have been more fortunate than any princess that ever before lived in her extra-

ordinary situation, if, indeed, any princess ever was so discarded. A wife of such high distinction dismissed, but not divorced, was more exposed to calumny than any other lady of rank in England. But nearly ten years past in her widowed situation, without any impeachment of her honor, until a period approached, which promised a new era.

The King had reached his sixty-eighth year; his nerves were in a \*delicate state, and, according to the ordinary course of nature he had nearly reached the close of his life. His father had died in his forty-fifth year, his grandfather in his seventy-seventh, his great grand-father in his sixty-eighth. Mr. Pitt's health had begun to fail towards the end of 1804, and although the decline was gradual, it was constant. In 1805 he had recourse to the waters of Bath and Cheltenham, but still grew worse. Towards the end of autumn his debility was excessive. His illness was brought on by excessive anxiety and unwearied attention to business. A painful relaxation deranged his whole nervous system, so that for weeks together he was unable to sleep. This privation of rest still further augmented the cause, and led to a general breaking up of his constitution. An hereditary gout completed the whole, producing its ordinary effect on a debilitated system, water on the chest, and such a weakness of the stomach, that it could neither admit nor retain food, without extreme suffering. For some months before his death, although it was uncertain how long he might linger, there was little hope or chance of his recovery. The prospect called forth the expectations of the opposition, and no doubt was entertained that, the event of his death, would be attended with the dissolution of his administration, and that Mr. Fox and the party, then known by the name of "*the Prince's Friends*," would be called into the cabinet. ONE of those *friends*, a most honorable nobleman, who afterwards held an office in the Fox and Grenville administration, had already, in 1804, been searching for matter against the Princess. A consideration of these circumstances will show how opportunely the conspirators timed the opening of their intended tragedy.

On the twenty-third of January, 1806, Mr. Pitt died; on the 4th of February, Lord Grenville, Mr. Fox, and "*the Prince's friends*," were sworn into office, and the world had as yet heard nothing of the conspiracy against the

\* See "The Book," Appendix, page 94, for the Duke of Kent's statement of the *delicate state of the King's nerves* in Oct. 1804.

Princess; but from the moment that Mr. Pitt's recovery was hopeless, and at a time when each week was expected to prove his last, the conspirators had commenced their open operations.

Here we must look back to a short period *before*, to a secret inquiry, in which a nobleman of high honor was engaged from his sense of duty. Sometime in the preceding *May*, the Princess had gone with a party of ladies and one gentleman on horseback, to view the grounds and pictures at Lord Eardley's, at Belvedere. On the King's birth-day, the fourth of June, 1804, Mr. *Kenny*, Lord Eardley's *steward*, informed *Jonathan Partridge*, the *porter*, at Belvedere, that he was wanted by Lord Moira in town. Partridge was taken accordingly by Mr. Kenny to Lord Moira's house in James's Place, where he was questioned by that nobleman if he remembered the Princess, coming to Belvedere some time before? On learning the number of the company from the porter, his lordship farther questioned him; "whether they went up stairs?" and being answered that they did not; he next asked how long they staid. In Jonathan Partridge's after deposition of this memorable transaction, we find the following passage:—"His Lordship, in the course of what he said to me, said it was a *subject of importance*, and *might be of consequence*. His Lordship finding that I had nothing more to say, told me I might go." When we recollect the entire confidence with which the Princess was sent from her august husband's palace in 1796, to live at her own discretion, without any restriction whatever, and wholly deprived of the advice and guidance of her natural protector, we may well be surprised at this extraordinary proceeding eight years after. In the Prince's letter of separation, the two high parties were expressly left to pass their lives in uninterrupted tranquillity; and yet here we find a nobleman of high honor and chivalrous spirit, the Prince's most honored and honorable friend, and confidential counsellor, intent on privately tracing the steps of the Princess, in her noon-day and open intercourse with the world. We find him examining a *porter* as to the words, looks, and behaviour of the illustrious Consort of the Prince, his friend; of that Princess, who, by right of marriage, was entitled to share the throne and crown of England. The Earl of Moira's unspotted character renders this strange matter more supprising: that he should hang the character of so high a female on the random report of a menial so low, is indeed wonderful, if he, at that time, *expected*

*Her Royal Highness ever to reign as Queen of England;* and, if he did not, it may be matter of grave inquiry for a future historian, *on what did he ground a doubt?* It appears too, that his lordship had, previous to this interview, been making secret application to Mr. Kenny, the steward of Lord Eardley, for it was in consequence of a request from Lord Moira, brought by Mr. Kenny to Jonathan Partridge, that the latter came to town with Kenny; and the two went together to Lord Moira to undergo this private examination. It would be difficult to say what impression Lord Moira meant to make on the minds of Jonathan Partridge or Kenny, by the words "It is a subject of *importance*, and *might be of consequence*." It is equally hard to guess what impressions were made by these words, coming from a nobleman in the known confidence of the Prince, and relative to the conduct of his illustrious Consort, when addressed to so low a menial as a porter, and the domestic, Mr. Kenny. Whether Kenny or Partridge thought it must be "of consequence" to them, or to the Princess, or the nobleman; are delicate matters; or whether they considered these questions of his lordship, put *in friendship*, or *enmity*, to the Princess, to do her a good or an injury, or whether they supposed his lordship had merely sent for them to inquire into the important particulars of an open, noon-day visit, out of mere idle curiosity, are also unascertained points. But it is a fact, verified by the oath of Partridge, that some time after, when the whole of what had passed at Lord Moira's had made all the impression it was calculated to make on the mind of a poor man, this porter was sent for again by the Prince's friend: and here Partridge's deposition is of large importance to an historian; The deponent says—he asked me, "if I was sure of what I said, being ALL that I could say respecting the Princess?" I said, it was; and that *I was ready to take my oath* of it, if his lordship thought proper. He said, it was very satisfactory; said I might go, and he should not want me any more."—It appears here that Partridge offered to depose to particulars perfectly correct, and calculated to remove any misrepresentation of that particular visit from his lordship's mind, and to have cleared up that matter in favor of her Royal Highness, if any misapprehension had entered his thoughts; but whether that nobleman only wanted verbal communications, or did not conceive Partridge's information of sufficient importance for an oath, or that it was not the kind of deposition he expected, he did not accept his offer, or cause his deposition to be taken

in favor of the Princess, but sent him away, and never after applied to him. Whether his lordship concealed this application from the Prince, or disclosed it to him, and whether he acted of his own motion, or who set him on, may be a subject for future writers to consider. In the history of the conspiracies against the Princess and Queen of England, which is now nearly ready for Press, I have, I think, pretty well settled that question for posterity: but it is certain that he did not communicate it to the Princess; and that, although his honor is above all impeachment in this transaction, his lordship must have known that he would not, in the ordinary course of opinion, be deemed to have acted as her friend, in subjecting her name to the surmise of the vulgar, or her honor to the dangerous chance of a porter's good or bad memory, his realities or falsehoods. If a poor man, like Partridge, had taken it into his head to imagine that it would have been "*of consequence*" to his pocket or his fortune, to have invented some vile aspersion of the Princess; if he had told Lord Moira that the Princess had gone for a quarter of an hour into a bed-room with the gentleman who was with the party; and suppose, also, that he had added, he was ready to make oath of it, would that deposition against the Princess have been refused or taken? The honorable mind of Lord Moira must shrink at the dreadful consequences, which might have resulted from his application. But Partridge was not a *Majocchi*, a *Sacqui*, nor a *De Mont*; and, if the Queen ever has power, and Partridge be still living, I rely upon it, when this has met her Majesty's eye, she will graciously provide for his age, as a reward for his integrity.

This fact of Kenny and Partridge's examination, so early as June 4, 1804, is of large importance to the interests of truth in the investigation of this melancholy affair; because it manifests that a nobleman of the most unquestioned honor, and high in the confidence of her illustrious husband, must have had some false impression thrown upon his mind, or he would not, on account of his attention to the honor of the Prince, and his own good name, without any warrantable excuse, have acted the part of an inquisitor upon the words and actions of the Princess. His known sense of rectitude is quite sufficient ground for supposing that some base wretches, in the hope of obtaining favor, had spread some little tattle story to Her Royal Highness's prejudice; but whether it had come from Lady Douglas or not, must now remain unknown. The proof of his lordship's inquiries, so early as June 4th, 1804,

does not enable us to judge how long before that date this vigilant scrutiny had been carried on in secret. It is a remarkable fact, that although these suspicions were thus manifested in a way which could not fail to excite surmises prejudicial to the Princess, and the honor of her royal husband, not one of the law authorities, or counsellors of the King or Prince, advised any measure of admonition or restriction upon her conduct. It would appear as if some grave statesmen were of opinion, that the only mode of ensuring the tranquillity of the state, and guarding against a disputed succession to the throne, was to find out some error, indiscretion, folly, or guilt, of the Princess. If they *really* saw a danger to the country, those, who, by advising an open violation of the law of God and man, had exposed the Princess and the country to that danger, were wholly responsible for the consequences. No proposal was made to Her Royal Highness to go back and reside in the palace of the Prince, or any of the palaces, where she might have had the benefit of his advice, guidance, and protection. In June, 1804, Kenny, the steward, and Partridge, the porter, were left, without any restriction, to spread a tale among all the servants and tradesmen in London and Westminster, of their having, each, been twice sent for, and questioned by Lord Moira, about the conduct of so high a female as the Princess, who was by marriage to ascend the throne of England. We find that they were not silent; for it was by their talking, that the matter, some time after, reached the Princess circuitously. It is uncertain how many other menials, or persons of low description, were secretly examined, and how many noble examiners were busy; but it is certain that those who affected to apprehend an indiscretion, and its consequences, adopted no one wise or necessary precaution to prevent the hazard of a disputed succession or danger to the public tranquillity. Those fair, open, manly measures, which the honor of the Royal Family, a love of justice, the public morals, and the real interests of the nation, called for, were sedulously omitted.

The movements against the Princess were calculated to fall, with aggravated re-action, on the covert instigators, to wound the feelings, and impair the dignity and character of any female, however exalted and exemplary in her conduct. Above all, they were calculated to stir all that was base and dangerous in society against her, and to spread abroad a belief that there were persons ready to listen to any fabrication of malice or revenge against Her Royal Highness. The practice of secretly sifting servants,

and underlings, to collect materials of crimination, is generally considered a disgraceful employment to the secret emissaries. It has been, in all ages, condemned as a proceeding, which affords a direct encouragement to malice, falsehood, and conspiracy: it is, at least, a mode of acquiring evidence, which no honorable man is over proud to boast of. The husband, who descends so low as to suspect his wife, and who sets his confidential friends as secret spies upon her words and actions, ought not, wilfully, to have deserted and placed her in an exposed situation; or ought to have withdrawn her from ill tongues, and recalled her home, under his own care and safeguard, as soon as he had heard, or entertained a thought of danger. In discharging this most painful duty, I am anxious to turn the censure on those who are responsible. The time-serving counsellors, to whose advice we are to attribute all the attempts to defame and destroy the Princess, are the offenders.

The examination of Partridge is now an important record of history, open to the impartial consideration of all. It must rest upon its own merits or demerits in the opinion of mankind: and wholly excluding Lord Moira from any share of intended blame in these remarks, I presume he acted from what he conceived to be his sense of duty, as the Prince's counsellor. But I trust I have established the fact, that although his intentions were pure, a malignant spirit was abroad so early as June, 1804; that a nobleman of the first character, and in the intimate confidence of the Prince, her husband, deemed it his duty secretly to scrutinize the words and actions of the Princess, for matter against her; and that all his vigilance and acute ability *did not, and could not, make any discovery*, to corroborate the infamous conspiracy of 1806.

I shall now look back some time, to trace the origin of that atrocious accusation. In 1801, Sir John and Lady Douglas went to live at Blackheath, near Montague House, in which the Princess resided: and one day in November, that year, as Her Royal Highness and one of her ladies passed their door, Lady Douglas came out, introduced herself to the Princess, and invited her to do her the honor to step in. This invitation, from the lady of a British officer, was accepted with affability. The Princess staid some time, and afterwards invited Sir John and his lady to dine; had them frequently at her house, and sometimes dined with them. This continued, with some occasional absences from Blackheath of Sir John and his lady, until September, 1804, when the Princess, being



offended at some parts of Lady Douglas's conduct, and having received an anonymous letter, cautioning her against her, left orders not to be at home to her. Her ladyship having, after this, persisted in calling, on the 4th of October, received a letter from Mrs. Vernon, the lady in waiting desiring her, by the Princess's order, not to visit at Montague House any more. This positive dismissal is not only admitted by the Princess, but it was afterwards sworn to, in her deposition, by Lady Douglas. "In October, 1804, when we returned from Devonshire, I left my card at Montague House, and on the 4th of October I received a letter from Mrs. Vernon, desiring me *not to come any more to Montague House. I had never at this time mentioned the Princess's being with child, or being delivered of a child, to any person, not even to Sir John Douglas.*" (p. 6 and 7 Appendix "The Book, Edwards's edition.") So that even by this sworn acknowledgement, she was not, if she were to be believed, instigated by malice, or any other base motive, to utter any thing to the prejudice or disparagement of the Princess, before she received this mortifying dismissal on the 4th of October, 1804. Here, then, is this woman's own sworn statement. She herself expressly assigns the wounded feelings, occasioned by this letter of the 4th of October, 1804, as the *cause* of her having first accused the Princess of *promiscuous adultery, pregnancy, and the delivery of a male child* in 1802. We find her first accusation is dated more than a year later, December 3, 1805. But her deposition proceeds—"After receiving Mrs. Vernon's letter, I wrote to the Princess on the subject. The letter was sent back, *unopened.* I then wrote to Mrs. Fitzgerald, saying I thought myself extremely ill used." (p. 7, "The Book.") Here, unquestionably, there was a most direct and contemptuous flinging off of Lady Douglas, amounting to a shutting of the door in her face; and, if the Princess had been guilty of the infamous crimes of promiscuous adultery and treason, and had confided her guilt to this lady, she certainly acted as no criminal in the world ever did before, in thus setting her at defiance, and virtually daring her to reveal her crimes. But Lady Douglas, subsequently, complained of having received, after the return of her letter *unopened*, two anonymous letters, and a "filthy" caricature "drawing," by the post, which she charged upon the Princess, and caused Sir Sidney Smith to write to Her Royal Highness, requesting an interview, for Sir John, herself, and Sir Sidney Smith. The Princess having determined to have no more communication with her,

wrote a note to the Duke of Kent, one of the *Royal Brothers of her Husband*, requesting him to come over to Blackheath, in order to assist her in arranging this disagreeable business between her and Lady Douglas, who had by this time, by means of the two anonymous letters, and the filthy drawing, embroiled Sir John and Sir Sidney Smith in it. That a royal adulteress, living for years separate from her husband, would seek out a strange lady, and, by standing at her door, entice her out, to form an acquaintance; that she would then, after a short time, select this new-found and oddly acquired companion, to blab the tale of her own infamy to; that she would betray to this miraculous confidant a disgusting and degrading story of continual and promiscuous adulteries, which converted her house into a haunt of pollution; of her criminal pregnancy, her delivery of a male child, and her determination to retain this illegitimate child openly in her house, to suckle it as a *protégée*, and palm it on her husband, from whom she had been six years separated, as his own; that she would, thus, in her thirty-fourth year, after seven years residence in England, overlook all the circle of her own intimates and acquaintances, and know no one living worthy of this dangerous confidence but this unrecommended chance acquaintance, Lady Douglas; that she would then, without a necessity or a wish for her services, without a reason or a motive, foolishly and shamelessly, and madly, reveal a mass of turpitude, which must, for ever, degrade her as a woman, and of treasons, which, if divulged, must forfeit her life by the axe of the executioner;—all these are so utterly the reverse of probability, and so unlike the fixed and daily course of human nature, that the most silly or raving writer or reader of fairy tales would blush, to think for a moment of such ridiculous and monstrous puerilities. Yet this mass of gross absurdity and falsehood was deemed quite sufficient, by the conspirators of 1806, to bring the Prince's illustrious consort the mother of the Princess Charlotte, to an ignominious death upon the scaffold.

That those, who had assisted to fabricate these vile and criminal impostures, and who had an interest in their success, should affect to believe them, is quite natural; but that any one else would or did believe them, is very unlikely. The wicked and stupid effrontery of the conspiracy was, also, as palpably evident in the facts of the Princess's known conduct. According to Lady Douglas's deposition, she had herself for nearly two years relished the filthy confessions to which she had deposed; and that an

adulteress, whose life hung, as it were, by a hair in the hands of such a depraved woman, would, without any cause, forbid that dangerous confidant her house, and thereby risk her betraying her guilt instantly to the world; that she would next return her criminal confidant's letter *unopened*, in token of having broken off all intercourse with her; and, knowing that the affrontive, galling provocation of these two acts must inevitably drive her to a discovery in revenge;—that this royal adulteress would, after these two acts of contemptuous defiance, with persevering calmness, refuse this her enraged confidant an audience, and send for a Royal Duke, *the Brother of her Husband*, to bear a message from her to that angry, menacing confidant, for the purpose of settling the business, by *getting rid of her for ever!* are four acts, which no royal adulteress could be mad, or foolish, or desperate enough to fall into. But it is proved by the sworn deposition and statement of Sir John and Lady Douglas, by the narrative signed by the Duke of Kent, and by the coincident avowal of the Princess of Wales, that Her Royal Highness did, by a letter, written by Mrs. Vernon, one of her ladies, forbid Lady Douglas her house, on the 4th of October, 1804; that she afterwards returned her ladyship's letter *unopened*; that she next refused her an audience; that she, finally, and by a deliberate act, in that month, sent the Duke of Kent, her brother-in-law, to that enraged woman, for the express purpose of getting rid of her for ever. The Princess persevered in her resolution, and never admitted her visits, never visited her, never saw her after having forbid her visits! This series of acts manifests a calm, immovable confidence, which, if the Princess had been guilty, would have amounted to a wilful *throwing away of her life*. It is as clear as the day, that Her Royal Highness must have hazarded and incurred a certain discovery to the Duke of Kent of all her alleged crimes and high-treasons, by sending him, of all persons in the world, to a woman, irritated and furious by the loss of her favor, and by the contemptuous mode in which she had cast her off.

A moment's consideration of these facts was quite sufficient to establish the Princess's innocence, even if the outrageous inconsistencies and contradictions of the accusation had not destroyed its credibility. It was impossible, after such an open and decided proof of indifference and independence, to suppose that the Princess had ever confided a secret to Lady Douglas's keeping, or left it in her power, with truth, to utter a word to her disparagement. To avow such a belief against such evidence re-

quired the credulity of an idiot, or the malice of a demon. In effect, the whole tale of the promiscuous adulteries, pregnancy, and delivery of a male child, turned a tide of detestation and horror against the conspirators, and their suborned accomplices. The discernment of the public was never more conspicuous; and the monstrous villainy of that iniquitous plot, its dark but palpable origin, and the final impunity and favor of the two chief criminals, Sir John and Lady Douglas, will stand, for ever, a black and shameful record in the British annals.

The monstrous improbability of the conspiracy in 1806 did not stop here. The Duke of Kent, as the friend of the Princess, actually had an interview in October, 1804, with Sir Sidney Smith, as the friend of Sir John and Lady Douglas; on which occasion Sir Sidney confined the complaint of Lady Douglas to the two anonymous letters and caricature drawings; but not one word of the promiscuous adulteries, pregnancy, or delivery of a male child in 1802! The Duke of Kent afterwards saw the Princess, and communicated to her the result of this interview: but not a word of having heard any such complaint from Sir Sidney, on behalf of the Douglasses! The gallant Sir Sidney Smith and Sir John Douglas, afterwards, in November or December, 1804, dined, by invitation, with the Duke of Kent, at Kensington Palace; and, *if we are to believe the public declaration of Sir John and Lady Douglas*, not one word passed of the promiscuous adulteries, pregnancy, or birth of a male child in 1802, at this dinner! Sir John and Lady Douglas, in their statement, signed before the Duke of York, and attested by His Royal Highness, affirm that the Duke of Sussex ("The Book," appen. p. 80 and 81) resided at Carlton House in September and October, 1804, just before the embodying of the conspiracy; and that Sir John Douglas attended on His Royal Highness there: yet, if we are to believe the two conspirators, they did not, during these fourteen or fifteen months, drop a word to the Duke of Sussex, or to the Prince, of the promiscuous adulteries, pregnancy, and delivery of a male child in 1802! They were, altogether, silent upon these crimes, until November or December, 1805! The knight and his accomplice, in their declaration, state that they, in the end, unburdened themselves to the Duke of Sussex; that the Duke of Sussex communicated it to the Prince; that the Prince sent to Sir John for a *full detail* (p. 90, *ib.*); and that they, in eight and forty hours, drew up their statement. Now this statement, which was signed by Charlotte

Douglas, and John Douglas, in the presence of the Duke of York, is attested by His Royal Highness, and dated Greenwich Park, December 3, 1805. We must conclude, therefore, that the Duke of Sussex, after having learned the existence of a treason, affecting the succession to the throne, did not lose a day, or many days, without revealing it to the Prince; and that the Prince was still more anxious to possess the whole report from the knight and his lady without delay. So that if we are to take the date of the statement for our guide, they must have remained silent, and concealed all these crimes and treasons of 1802 until November, 1805, although in personal communication with two Royal Dukes, the Duke of Sussex and the Duke of Kent; and although Sir John Douglas was in attendance on the Duke of Sussex in Carlton House, and had an opportunity of being honored with an introduction to the Prince, at any time, from September or October, 1804.

To make all this affirmed silence more mysterious and suspicious, the conspiracy was nursed and cherished, and dandled like a rickety deformity, for nearly six months more, from December 3, 1805, before it was poured, like an overwhelming thunderclap, on the ears of His Majesty, whose *warrant*, appointing the four Lords Commissioners to inquire into it, is dated May 29, 1806!

It appears clearly that the conspirators and their council were in dread of Mr. Pitt's discernment and integrity, and were of opinion that his administration would not countenance their abominable inventions. They waited until Mr. Pitt was in the last stage of his illness, and then stepped from their covert, on the 3rd of December, 1805, into the open commencement of proceedings. As a vile opinion had got abroad, that to report ill of the Princess was a sure path to favor, they paid Mr. Fox, and that political party, then called "the Prince's Friends," so unworthy a compliment, as to suppose that they would be base enough to give the conspiracy its full intended effect against the Princess, in order to prevent her from ascending the throne. This fact is not only proved by their lurking in darkness until Mr. Pitt's recovery was hopeless, but they have, in substance, acknowledged it in their statement, attested by the Duke of York. Their words are, that "he," that is Sir John Douglas, "did not mean to bind himself hereafter, but reserve to himself a full right of exposing the Princess, when he judged it might be done WITH GREATEST EFFECT, and when it was not likely to disturb the repose of this country."—(The Book, App.

p. 85.) As to the *repose* of the country, their story, if true, must always have had the same effect: and, being false, their pretended regard for the repose of the country is only another proof of their falsehood, hypocrisy, and villainy. But, from what I have ascertained, I am convinced they were all along acting in concert with others, by whom they were determined in the choice of the time most likely to strike their blow with the *greatest effect*. This may, again, be fairly inferred from their own words, in page 86 of the same statement—"We agreed, that as we had *no means of communicating at present with His Majesty, or the Heir Apparent*, we must wait patiently until called upon to bring forward her conduct, as there seemed little doubt we should one day be." Here their falsehood and hypocrisy are again detected. It is pretty plain that they did not wait in 1804 and 1805 in silence. How could they expect to be called upon to reveal those heinous crimes, which they affected to know of the Princess, if they had not first divulged their conspiracy as a means of getting rid of Her Royal Highness, and preventing her from ever sharing in the honors of a public coronation with the Prince, her august husband? There is another palpable falsehood in the preceding affirmation. They therein state their being forced to remain silent by having "*no means at present of communicating with His Majesty or the Heir Apparent.*" But Sir John and his lady could have written a statement, and presented it to the King's secretary, in the usual open course, in October, 1804, or at any time before December in 1805, with quite as much ease as they wrote their statement in that month, by the desire and command of the Prince. According to their vile story, the Princess was in the habit of promiscuous adulteries, that is, of high treasons, and Sir John, groom of the bed-chamber to the Duke of Sussex, an officer in the King's service, bound by an oath of fidelity, remains silent, permitting all these crimes to flourish, with the chances of other spurious claims to the throne, beside the alleged male child of 1802, from October 4, 1804, to November or December, 1805! Lady Douglas too describes herself in that famous Statement, as "*the wife of an officer, whom our beloved King has honored with a mark of his approbation, and who is bound to the royal family by ties of respectful regard and attachment, which nothing can ever break*". (p. 80, *ib.*)—Yet this man, so honored by the King for former services, practises a treasonable concealment of the high crimes daily committing by the Princess, without ever thinking of the multiplied dangers of a disputed succession, from October, 1804,

to November or December, 1805!—Even then, according to their statement, (p. 90, *ib.*) the mighty treason might have slept, the hazard of spurious pretensions to the crown have encreased, and the Princess continued in her promiscuous habit of adultery, pregnancy, and delivery, if she had refrained from abusing Sir John and Lady Douglas. The immaculate pair actually state that the cause of their giving the information, at last, to the Duke of Sussex, was, that they discovered the Princess “was attempting to undermine Sir John and Lady Douglas’s character!” This loyal readiness in the knight and his lady to wink at treason and adultery, in 1805, can only be equalled by the £50,000. a-year offered to the Queen of England, by the green-bag managers in 1820, to stay upon the continent, and pursue her own gratifications. If she had done so, all the horrible inventions of the green-bag, which cost England so many thousands of her taxes, would have been laid aside, although well paid for, or duly obtained, by special contract, and ready cut and dry, wanting nothing but good hard swearing, to colour the dethronement and degradation of the Queen of England. Lady Douglas states that she first communicated the crimes, alleged to have been committed by the Princess in 1802, to Sir John, after she received the letter of dismissal, October 4, 1804; and yet this Sir John is brought forward to declare and swear, in the same deposition with her, to her statements of the promiscuous adulteries, pregnancy, and delivery of a male child in 1802! But beside these proofs of the loyalty, religion, and morals, of this delectable pair, there is another downright falsehood in the preceding extract. I have already noticed that in page 90 (the Book) they assign their having at present, that is, in October, 1804, “*no means of communicating with His Majesty or the Heir Apparent,*” as the reason of their not having divulged the high treason and promiscuous adulteries of his Consort to him, from October, 1804, to December, 1805. But in the very same statement, only a few pages before, they mention, upon the arrival of the Duke of Sussex from abroad, Sir John returned to town to attend him, (p. 80, *ib.*) and “when she” (the Princess) “found that His Royal Highness was not only returned, but that Sir John was *in attendance,* and that *His Royal Highness was in Carlton House,* where Sir John *might see and have the honor of being made known to the Prince,* her fear and rage got the better of every prudent consideration, and she commanded Mrs. Vernon to dismiss me as I have mentioned,” (p. 81, *ib.*) Here the facts come out. On the Duke of Sussex’s re-

turn from abroad, before September or October, 1804, he resided in Carlton House; and Sir John being groom of his bed-chamber, returned from Devonshire to attend him, and was in attendance in Carlton House, where he might see and have the honor of being made known to the Prince. This is the statement of the Douglasses: their assertion, in page 80, that, they were prevented from divulging the alleged promiscuous adulteries and high treason, from October, 1804, to December, 1805, through having no means of communicating with the Prince, is here proved by their own statement a downright and notorious falsehood; the fact being, that they had full opportunity of publicly or privately communicating with His Royal Highness. And yet the statement containing these palpable contradictions is signed by the two conspirators, with an express affirmations that they have given it "*as upon oath, after having seriously considered the matter, and are ready to authenticate whatever they have said, if required for His Majesty's information.*" (p. 90, ib) This mass of malicious inventions, which they were ready to *authenticate*, that is to swear to in December, 1805, when trimmed and garbled up, they did swear to, on the 1st of June, 1806. Here I should like to ask, with all due humility, a question of the Duke of Sussex? did Sir John Douglas, who was in attendance on His Royal Highness, in October, 1804, divulge nothing to him until November, 1805, of the promiscuous adulteries of the Princess, or of the pregnancy, and delivery of the male child in 1802?—If Sir John did not, then I may, also, ask His Royal Highness, what could he think of the tale of a man, who had been guilty of misprision of treason so long, by concealing a series of crimes which so nearly concerned the succession to the throne; and who, when he did divulge it, owned he was induced to do so, in revenge for some newly discovered attempts of the Princess to undermine his character?

Lady Douglas would have us to believe, that the Princess was in *fear*, lest Sir John's attendance on the Duke of Sussex in Carlton House, and his opportunities of seeing the Prince there, would be attended with some *ill* consequences to her; that is, we are to believe the Princess was in fear that Sir John, when on good terms with her, and without any provocation, would, through his communication with one of her brothers-in-law, the Duke of Sussex, betray her alleged crimes to the Prince, her husband, and bring her to the block, in punishment of her high treason. In the midst of this fear of discovery and death, according to Lady Douglas's account, instead of soothing,



flattering, and keeping promises and favors on her consultant, to close her mouth, and save her own head, she makes open war upon her, and sets her at an affrontive and contemptuous defiance! This was a new mode of *briding to secrecy*: and the Princess, truly, had every thing to fear, for she was not, merely, a widowed wife, deprived, without a fault, of the safeguard and dignity of her natural protector's dwelling, his advice, and guidance, but she was, unfortunately, subjected, without offence, to the force of the sentiment, which had induced His Royal Highness to consult his own inclinations, by proposing their separation. This sentiment had gradually assumed a force and direction, which admitted no hope of melioration. In the good old King, she found a father, a comforter, and a kind friend, as well as a shield from oppression. There can be no higher proof of her correct conduct than His Majesty's unabated affection and esteem. His visits were her pride and her protection. But the evil advisers, who had conspired to prevent her from ever being crowned Queen of England, had poisoned the ear of her illustrious husband, and alienated his feelings from her, so far as to make those royal visits a source of uneasiness to him. Here, most unhappily, our evidence admits of no question, for the Duke of Kent, in his statement, has furnished lamentable testimony of the fact, in the following passage, alluding to the two anonymous letters and the caricature drawing, which were no doubt forged by the Douglasses in October, 1804, to cast an imputation on the Princess, and excite Sir Sidney Smith to unite with them against her. The Royal Duke's reason for concealing this petty affair of scandal is very important. "Nevertheless, anxious to avoid the *shameful* éclat, which the publication of such a fact to the world must produce; the effect which it, coming to the King's knowledge, would probably have on *his health*, from the *delicate state of his nerves*, and all the ADDITIONAL MISUNDERSTANDINGS BETWEEN HIS MAJESTY and THE PRINCESS, which I foresaw would inevitably follow, were this fact, which would give the Prince so powerful a handle to EXPRESS HIS FEELINGS UPON THE COUNTENANCE SHOWN BY THE KING TO THE PRINCESS, at a time when I knew him to be SEVERELY WOUNDED by His Majesty's visits to Blackheath, on the one hand, and the reports he had received of the Princess's conduct on the other;" (the Book, App. 94, 95.) Here we have one of the many real causes of the Princess's apprehensions in October, 1804. The melancholy fact is established, beyond all possibility of doubt,

that, prior to this period of October, 1804, there had been misunderstandings between His Majesty and the Princess, her natural protector, relative to the countenance which the good King shewed his deserted daughter-in-law, and that her natural protector had been (in the words of his royal brother) "*severely wounded by His Majesty's visits to Blackheath.*" This circumstance is here authenticated as an historical record, that her illustrious husband had not only, without any offence, withdrawn his countenance and protection from his fair cousin and wife, in 1796, but that he wished his royal father to imitate his example, and endeavoured to make him abandon her also!

The Duke of Kent does not report a hearsay; he speaks of the deep feeling of the Prince from actual knowledge: "*I knew him to be severely wounded by His Majesty's visits to Blackheath,*" and it is more remarkable, that this written statement was published by the Royal Duke, as the subject of a conversation first held between him and Sir Sidney Smith, and next repeated by him to the Prince, by the Prince's own express desire. It is furthermore a document expressly drawn up to prop the Douglasses' charges against the Princess, is dated December 27, 1805, and attested by B. Bloomfield, the Prince's secretary, and countersigned by J. Beckett\*. Truth here takes her stand upon a rock, and these testimonies of the deplorable calamities heaped upon this heroic Princess can never be shaken.

But, while we are bound by the constitution, to do justice to the great qualities of the Prince, and to state those facts with the most perfect respect for that august personage, we may be allowed to cast all the imputation and responsibility of these attempts to deprive the Princess of the countenance and protection of the King upon the evil advisers. We may express our deep scorn and detestation of those wicked incendiaries who could thus seek to produce "*ill blood*" in the royal family, because it is plain that this known sentiment of that great personage first produced a general opinion, that those who visited the Princess would lose the favor of her natural protector, and that an opposite course, a course of calumny, accusation and conspiracy, would be sure to win both favor and promotion.

With respect to "*the reports he had received of the Princess's conduct,*" when we reflect that this line was

\* For ample particulars of all these dark intrigues, see my "*History of the Conspiracies*," now preparing for the press.

inserted in a statement intended to support a capital charge of high treason, we may well be surprised to find so irrelevant and vague an insinuation, introduced in the Duke's report. But I shall blow it into air immediately. On the 3d of December, 1805, the two chief conspirators signed their statement before the Duke of York, at Greenwich. After every effort had been made by noble and ignoble assistants to rake together additional materials, "for the purpose of confirming the statement made by Lady Douglas in her narrative," (The Book, p. 97) towards the end of May, the foul materials were disclosed to the King. On the twenty-ninth of May, His Majesty issued his warrant, appointing the four lords commissioners to examine into the accusation. The noble lords, being of that party which was then termed the Prince's friends, deemed it the most impartial mode to hear only *one side of the question*; and although the King's writ had expressly commanded and empowered them "to hold *pleas*," that is, to receive the matter in charge, and to hear the arguments or pleas in favor of the accused, these eminent authorities neither admitted the Princess, the accused party, to be present, in person, nor by counsel; nor did they give her any notice of the proceedings, to afford her an opportunity of sending in witnesses in her own behalf. Yet, after all these proofs that they had no inclination in favor of the Princess, they could not find her guilty: the utter want of proof, the outrageous incoherence, the monstrous contradictions, the stupid, chattering, brainless malice, that jabbered and stammered all through the accusation, acquitted the Princess; and the four lords, after having sat from the first of June to the fourteenth of July, 1806, necessarily attested her innocence, in good set terms, but without one word of displeasure, reproach, or censure, upon the two detestable miscreants, Sir John and Lady Douglas, the chief conspirators, and their suborned accomplices. They did not advise a prosecution of them, either by an *ex post facto* law, or a bill of *pains and penalties*, nor did they humbly represent to His Majesty the necessity of having the military coat torn from the back of the chief offender, and of having him drummed out of the army, to which he was an indelible disgrace. The terms of their acquittal are, however, full. "We are happy to declare to your Majesty our *perfect conviction* that there is *no foundation whatever* for believing that the child now with the Princess is the child of Her Royal Highness, or that *she was delivered of any child in the year 1802; nor has any thing*

appeared to us which would warrant the belief that she was pregnant in that year, or at any other period within the compass of our inquiries."—"Neither should we be more warranted in expressing any doubt respecting the alleged pregnancy of the Princess, as stated in the original declarations; a fact so fully contradicted, and by so many witnesses, to whom, if true, it must, in various ways, have been known, that we cannot think it entitled to the smallest credit." On the twenty-fifth of January, 1807, the privy council confirmed this acquittal, and advised the King no longer to decline receiving the Princess into his royal presence. The King thus addressed her. "The King sees, with great satisfaction, the agreement of his confidential servants, in the decided opinion expressed by the four lords upon the falsehood of the accusation of pregnancy and delivery brought forward against the Princess by Lady Douglas."

On the twenty-second of April, 1807, a privy council of the new administration submitted the following advice to the King. "After the most deliberate consideration, however, of the evidence which has been brought before the commissioners, and of the previous examination, as well as of the answer and observations, which have been submitted by your Majesty upon them, they feel it necessary to declare their decided concurrence in the clear and unanimous opinion of the commissioners, confirmed by that of all your Majesty's late confidential servants, that the two main charges alleged against Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, of pregnancy, and delivery, are completely disproved; and they further submit to your Majesty, their unanimous opinion that ALL OTHER PARTICULARS of CONDUCT brought in accusation against Her Royal Highness, to which the character of criminality can be ascribed, are satisfactorily contradicted, or rest upon evidence of such a nature, and which was given under such circumstances, as render it, in the judgment of your Majesty's confidential servants, undeserving of credit."

"Your Majesty's confidential servants, therefore, concurring in that part of the opinion of your late servants, as stated in their minute of the twenty-fifth of January, that there is no longer any necessity for your Majesty, being advised to decline receiving the Princess into your royal presence, humbly submit to Your Majesty, that it is essentially necessary, in justice to Her Royal Highness, and for the honor and interests of Your Majesty's illustrious family, that Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales should be admitted, with as little delay as possible,

into Your Majesty's royal presence, and that she should be received in a manner due to her rank and station in your Majesty's court and family."

I have now shewed the exemplary conduct and unimpeached purity of the Princess, when discarded from her illustrious husband's palace in 1796, merely on account of that illustrious personage's want of inclination. I have, also, brought evidence of her manifold injuries, and triumphant innocence, after the atrocious conspiracy against her life and honor in 1806. In 1812 Mr. Perceval testified to her innocence in parliament. In 1813 her innocence was again proclaimed in the same assembly. I may, therefore, with honest pride repeat it, if truth, justice, and gratitude have any existence, the King is largely my debtor. How his Majesty will be graciously pleased to notice my humble services after he has perused these honest pages, time will tell, England witness, and posterity record. I have not, it is true, had the glory to interpose my body, as a shield between my Sovereign and the sabre of an enemy, but I have done that, which the proud conjugal and paternal feeling and exalted mind of an honorable husband and father will appreciate more highly, ten thousand times, than the saving his own life. I interposed to rescue his august consort, the mother of his only beloved child, from the deadly perjuries, and venomous pens of the execrable calumniators and conspirators, who hoped to have brought her to an untimely end upon a scaffold, in 1806.

The moment the present examination of hired witnesses against her is over, I will trace the whole of this dark plot, and leave its most secret machinations bare for the eye of posterity. My alarm is for the future. I have no dread of immediate consequences to the public peace. The enemies of the Queen have the power to crush her. They may oppress me: I cannot, however, suppress my opinion, that the members of the great assembly are not only now sitting in judgment on the Queen of England, but upon the British Monarchy, and upon their own posterity for ever.

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The following observations, documents, and facts, will, I trust, throw a light upon the plots against the Queen, and clearly show, that before Her Majesty left England, in 1844, there was a settled resolution to un-  
crown her.

# THE CONSPIRACY OF 1806,

&c.

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## Correspondence

WITH

HIS MAJESTY'S MINISTERS IN 1813.

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IN March, 1812, the impunity and favor enjoyed by the conspirators of 1806, became, from some passing circumstances in and out of parliament, and a current rumour of a fresh conspiracy against the Princess of Wales, a source of strong public feeling, bearing vehemently against an exalted interest in the state, and implying that any conspirator against the Princess would find favor and friendship at court. The high personage under this odious imputation is not long dead; but this supposed encouragement, and the impunity and favor of the former conspirators, had a direct tendency to encourage fresh conspiracies against so elevated a branch of the royal family as the august mother of the Princess Charlotte, the heiress to the British throne. This was not all the danger. After having made a treasonable attempt to take away the life, and blast the honor of that illustrious female, the escape of these atrocious criminals without punish-

ment, or marked disgrace, and with favor, implied, in some high quarter, a real or affected disbelief of the Princess of Wales's innocence, and a belief in the foul and improbable accusation against her in 1806: otherwise it would have been most monstrous to have supposed that the high personages, who had a power by an *ex post facto* law, or a *bill of pains and penalties*, to bring the conspirators to speedy trial and sentence, to the block or gallows, would have taken no steps to discharge their duty, and to disgrace, degrade, or punish them, if they had deemed Sir John and Lady Douglas guilty of having conspired, by a false accusation, under the colour of law and forms of justice, to bring Her Royal Highness to an ignominious death upon the scaffold. Unhappily, there was no middle ground for any sober, conscientious mind to rest upon. The public were obliged either to fall into the painful apprehension, that an unnatural and barbarous connivance in favor of enormous guilt existed in some high quarter; or that the two chief conspirators were deemed innocent, and entitled to favor and countenance in that high circle. The flourishing state in which they were known to brave the eye and indignation of the public, was calculated to furnish a handle for future conspiracy and treason, and to infuse into weak minds groundless doubts of the conjugal purity of the mother, and of the legitimacy of her august daughter, the rightful heiress to the British throne. The leaving room for even a possibility of such doubts might hereafter be productive of bloody contests, like those of the Houses of York and Lancaster, and involve England in all the horrors of a disputed succession. The deep alarm produced by this opinion was more widely felt by those who gloried in the innocence of the Princess of Wales, because it was not confined to private individuals. Lord Thurlow is stated, in 1805 and 6, to have given it as his opinion, that the declaration

of the knight and his lady amounted to a charge,\*  
*“equally affecting the welfare of the state and the honor of a distinguished individual; and that such a report, unless its FALSEHOOD were to be CLEARLY and FULLY EXPOSED, might endanger the tranquillity of the state, and afford some wicked pretence for a disputed succession to the throne.”*

There was but one method by which the government and nation could hope to escape the threatened danger; and that was, if the existing laws were not competent to bring the criminals to justice, and that an unusual cabinet scruple opposed the framing an *ex post facto* law, or passing a *bill of pains and penalties* for their punishment, then it became the duty of the true friends of public tranquillity and the monarchy to have paid every honor to the Princess of Wales and her vindicators, and to have turned the conspirators out of any employment, which they held in the service of the crown, with marks of public disgrace and abhorrence; to have stigmatized and driven them from every high circle, and shut them out of all respectable society. Unhappily for the safety of the Princess of Wales, the honor of the royal family, and the permanent interests of the monarchy, measures, the very reverse of this wise, just, and necessary course, were adopted. As if there was some colour in the charge, the Princess of Wales, the mother of the Princess Charlotte, notwithstanding the late king's love for her, and his avowed conviction of her innocence, was prevented, by a course of dark intrigue, from appearing publicly at court. Lady Douglas, glorying in her guilt, and persisting in her abominable conspiracy,

\* See “the S\*\*\*\*\*,” of June the twenty-third, 1806, for the demi-official article, in which this information was conveyed to the public; with a statement of circumstances, most audaciously implying an absolute and familiar intimacy within the residence of an illustrious personage; and anxiously endeavouring to obtain credit for the charges of adultery, pregnancy, and the delivery of the male child, against his august consort.



was received in a high circle; and her infamous accomplice, Sir John, received his highest military promotion, after his attempt to perpetrate the murder of the Princess of Wales by a false accusation. In these unexampled proceedings, the public looked in vain for the pretended fear for the welfare of the state, the tranquillity of the people, and the honor of the royal family, which were assigned as the pretext for laying the charge of the conspirators before His Majesty in 1806.

Notwithstanding their lamented personal separation, I always replied with scorn and indignation to the odious supposition of a divided interest and separation of honor between the two high parties, the illustrious parents of the heiress to the British throne. *The honor of father, mother, and daughter, appeared to me one and indivisible: their permanent interests the same.* Every attempt to *advocate one at the expense of the other, was, in my conviction, a wound to the three.* No force of public prejudice could ever shake my conviction, that, notwithstanding the difference of domestic inclinations, a vindicator of his family honor, in that of his illustrious consort, needed only to be made known to His Royal Highness to find immediate grace and favor in his sight. I was convinced that such a favor would have a most salutary effect upon public opinion. The mode of my proceeding evinced my unshaken reliance on his high-minded nature and princely honor, justice, and magnanimity. Like other individuals in private life, I was led by the report of speakers in and out of parliament; and the inexhaustible eloquence of the periodical press taught me to value the rare endowments and accomplishments, the unrivalled graces of mind and person, the proud sense of liberty, and enthusiastic attachment to the principles of the British constitution, which had been so long the theme of applause and admiration of Fox

and Burke, Erskine, Moira, Sheridan, and that brilliant circle of eminent men, who formed, with the Prince at their head, the pride and glory of England, and the envy of Europe.

The commanding presence, and the high deserts, on which these praises were founded, had won upon all, and were impressed in living characters upon my mind. The crowd of all ranks which followed the "*observed of all observers*," with eager eyes and shouts of joy and exultation, whenever he appeared abroad, bore testimony of the happy state of public opinion. The man, who would have dared to breathe a dissent, would have risked immediate violence. The soldier, the scholar, and the courtier, beheld in him their own peculiar skill and excellence, accompanied by a superior elegance of demeanor, with refinements of courtesy, and polished affability, which already raised him to a throne in the hearts of Britons.

I can never forget a declaration of Mr. Fox's, at one of his election suppers in Covent Garden, in 1784. "The Prince has the best heart and soundest head: without any one of their bad qualities, or faults, he is what Charles the Second and Louis the Fourteenth were in their prime, the most accomplished gentleman of the age; and he will be the greatest monarch that ever reigned over a free people." The words sunk into my young ears, and made an indelible impression. It was impossible for a British subject to entertain a more elevated sentiment of esteem and affection for the heir to the throne.

My preliminary movement in March, 1812, was one of the purest homage that a subject could pay to a noble-minded prince. I knew of that separation of affection which all good men lamented, yet, far from concealing myself, as one who had voluntarily employed my pen in defence of his alienated consort, I wrote first, as her vindicator, to *Lord Farnmouth*, who was considered to have the honor

of being in the most confidential intimacy with the Prince Regent. I had not a thought of a memorial, because I considered the matter an occasion of generous pride and honorable private feeling; a concern altogether of the heart, so far as it related merely to His Royal Highness, although it offered a ready means of public justice and humanity, as a preventative and discouragement of further conspiracy against the Princess. I therefore adopted a private mode, with a design of keeping a respectful ground, without addressing myself to the Prince Regent. I sent two copies of my letters, printed in 1806, in vindication of the Princess, to Lord Yarmouth; one for his own perusal, and a note, begging him to take an opportunity of laying the other before his Royal Highness. I was confident that as soon as his lordship would make me known as the vindicator of the Princess in 1806, the Prince, from personal feeling, and on public grounds, would have been graciously pleased to signify his approbation, and to have honored me with some public and permanent mark of his royal favor. I thought that it would make a greater impression upon the public mind, redound more to his honor, and prove a more powerful discouragement to further conspiracy, if his royal approbation and favor were to flow to me by his own *spontaneous act*, from an innate love of justice, manliness, and public feeling, than from a formal memorial, to be laid before the Prince Regent in his public character, and mechanically discussed by his counsellors. I therefore made no particular solicitation, but left it to Lord Yarmouth himself to introduce the subject at his own opportunity, in his usual intercourse at Carlton House, and to give it whatever delicate turn his lordship might deem most suitable to the feelings and dignity of his royal master, particularly specifying my readiness, in respectful duty, at once, and without further communication, to retire in perfect acquiescence with the result.

Lord Yarmouth took some time to consider of the matter, without replying to my first note. When I thought he had had sufficient leisure to have perused the bound volume of my letters, printed in 1806, in vindication of the Princess, I wrote a second time, and was almost immediately favored with his reply. It is dated—"Seymour Place, April 6th, 1812." His lordship acknowledged the receipt of my books, and obligingly stated, in effect; that he did not consider the matter fitted for verbal communication, but advised, that whatever I might wish to communicate to the Prince Regent, would be more properly and respectfully submitted by *memorial*. He politely added, the information that Colonel Macmahon, His Royal Highness's secretary, was the channel through which such memorials should pass.

I was, and am highly grateful to his lordship for his polite attention, but I could not readily reconcile myself to his suggestion. A memorial to the crown, or to the Prince Regent, required the statement of a specific service done, and a prayer of favor or remuneration. This form must change the generous tone and colouring of the transaction considerably, and proportionally weaken its effect against further conspiracy. Instead of my zealous and humble service being made known in the course of conversation to His Royal Highness, by a nobleman who was honored with his intimate confidence, and instead of the royal approbation and favor flowing spontaneously to me, in a mode the most honorable to the princely donor, as well as to the humble receiver, and most likely to produce the intended public safeguard for the Princess, and to prove that no such real or supposed doubt existed anywhere as that which LORD THURLOW assigned as a cause for the secret enquiry in 1806;—I must, in forwarding a memorial, approach a nearer ground to the Prince Regent than was consistent with my notions of constitutional respect for so distinguished a

member of the royal family. I must also appear, by name, as an *applicant*, and the Prince be seen as one coldly discharging a debt of honorable obligation, not of his own generous motion, but because it was formally claimed as an equivalent *this* for *that*, by a thrifty suitor. The application, and the mode of the application, would introduce my character as that of one willing to blazon a service, on which a grateful husband's conjugal pride and delicate sense of honor, alone, ought to set the value. My situation did not, nor does not, lift me above an honorable patronage. I am in the general business of life as anxious as other men to obtain countenance and patrons; nor am I one of those who affect to think the labourer is not worthy of his hire; that the bishop in his diocese, or on the bench in the House of Lords, the judge in the court of justice, the rector in his pulpit, and the colonel at the head of his regiment, are to have their real services undervalued, their character impeached, and their motives suspected or vilified, on the single ground of their having manifested an anxiety to obtain preferment, or their having displayed a provident attention to self-interest, by regularly applying for, and, whenever it became necessary, enforcing, payment of their salaries, tithes, dues, pay, and lawful emoluments. I have made the above general observation, merely to prevent my being mistaken for some Quixotic dealer in professions of disinterestedness, to the affected exclusion of all just personal motives; but, at the same time, the facts shew, that I not only did not consult my own interests when I wrote my letters in 1806, but that I was induced to do so by motives of justice and humanity, and on public grounds, at a crisis when I partook of the general apprehension that the Princess, although perfectly innocent, was about to be sacrificed by a foul conspiracy. The public opinion was, that her accusers were on the profitable side, and that her

vindicators would be visited with vengeance in due season. This alarm was deeply felt by the printers; and if mere selfish motives, and pecuniary remuneration, had been my object in vindicating the Princess in that year, I would have applied in 1806, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, or 12, to Her Royal Highness, as her vindicator; and I am confident that illustrious lady would have liberally and publicly honored and rewarded me. I do not altogether so under-rate my small power, as an advocate of truth, as not to hope, that upon a plain question of right and wrong, I may venture to draw my pen on the side of justice, without any very great fear of the rank, talents, or numbers, of those who are opposed to me. I merely mean, that with a cause of moral strength, my weak pen might be efficacious. I never doubted that the Princess would have duly appreciated my zeal, and given me some permanent appointment, in justice to her own generous feelings and character. But I not only never directly or indirectly applied, or sought to make myself known to Her Royal Highness, from 1806 to 1812; but from 1812 to 1820, at this moment, I have as proudly abstained to be introduced by name or otherwise to that august personage.

Considering the brief term of man's life, no person, who had taken up the pen from a selfish motive, and to promote his own interest, would have thus sacrificed his own views and defeated his own object, by a neglect or abstinence from pushing his suit for so long a period as fourteen years.

Again, if mere selfish views or a pecuniary remuneration had been my motive, I would, with confidence, have applied to her beloved and lovely daughter. She was not dismayed when the gilded parasites and profligate minions, the wicked advisers of the time, would poison the ear of her royal father, and shadow the pre-eminent lustre of his great name, by their impious attempt to repeal God's

own will and ordinance, "HONOR THY FATHER AND MOTHER." delivered *amidst thunder and lightning*, by the REVEALED OMNIPOTENT himself, on the trembling Mountain of Sinai. The Princess Charlotte, with the purest filial affection, and the virtuous horror and indignation of a BELIEVING CHRISTIAN, meekly replied, by repeating that divine law. She offered up prayers in honor of her father, but she at once identified herself with the wrongs and the friends of her injured mother. She prayed too for her, and made the good of that persecuted widowed wife her own good, her enemies her enemies, and her affliction her affliction. With a pious magnanimity, which has consecrated her name, and rendered her memory a precious and never-dying odour in the sense of the latest posterity, she turned her face and her steps from those counsellors of Belial and Moloch, who, to monopolize their sovereign wholly to themselves, would advise him to reign by the edge of the sword; to make his *inclination* the law of the land, and cut him off from the affections of that people, by whom he had been idolized from his boyhood. She saw, that, to render their own base services more necessary, they would, if possible, represent that illustrious personage the very reverse of himself, as one leprous and lazarus-like; cancered to the heart's core; an imaginary monster spotted and grimed; without truth, without principle, without sincerity, without honor, without friendship, without natural affection. But their arts were in vain. She saw through the cloud, with which those enemies would surround the great qualities with which he had entered into life, and by the exercise of which he will ever continue to reign in the hearts of admiring millions. She revered the representative of her king, and she loved her father, without impairing her affections for her friendless mother. For that widowed wife, her young heart first felt a pang; for her the rose of her beauty first

grew pale, and her fair cheek, in the sleepless hours of midnight, first drank the tear of sorrow; she mingled grief with her grief, in their short forbidden or restricted interviews; and her heroic love, triumphing over the barbarous injustice of the time, afforded to that dear and injured mother a consoling hope, that, in the growing maturity of her exalted daughter, she would soon find a shield from further conspiracy, and an avenger to bring the conspirators to condign punishment. Alas! for that proud hope, that is now for ever fled! alas! for that fair sun of England's expectation, that is now for ever extinguished! alas! for that unhappy country, which, for its manifold offences, was condemned by providence to suffer that irreparable and overwhelming privation! But surely, that ever-to-be lamented model of female excellence, whose very soul was wrapt up in the honor of her calumniated parent, and whose future royalty rested upon her acquittal, would have felt a pride in conferring honor, reward, and patronage on her voluntary vindicator. I was confident of this. But I never either directly or indirectly applied to or sought to make myself known to that admirable young princess. Again, I say, I do not imply by this an insensibility to my own advancement in my ordinary business in life, above what every just man ought to feel. On the contrary, in 1812, or at any time, the countenance of a distinguished member of the royal family would have been of the highest importance and advantage to me, more especially when obtained by so honorable a public service. It would have formed a proud and never-to-be forgotten triumph to my feelings, as well as a noble source of benefit to my family. I have been pressed repeatedly for some years, by gentlemen, who have read my letters in vindication of the Princess of Wales, in 1806, to permit them to present a copy to her Royal Highness, or the



Princess, her august daughter, and to make me known to them ; but I have uniformly refused. I could never quiet a strong apprehension, that in the base hope of obtaining high favor, the spirit of the old conspiracy was on the watch, like a tiger crouched in a thicket, ready, at a convenient opportunity, to spring upon its prey. I thought that it would one day break out again into some other desperate guilt, for her destruction. I, therefore, held my pen ready as a voluntary advocate again to sound the alarm, and rouse the public sympathy for her safeguard and protection, in the last dark and dreadful hour of her danger. Under such critical circumstances, I was of opinion that any pecuniary reward or patronage bestowed upon me by the Princess of Wales, might have afforded some pretext for calumniating Her Royal Highness, with a charge of having been privy to, or having employed me to write these letters in 1806. I felt that any pecuniary reward from Her Royal Highness would havestripped a voluntary and disinterested service of its most honorable feature ; have robbed my pillow of one of its purest comforts, my dying hours of one of their sweetest consolations, and have wounded me in my own estimation, by placing that exalted female before me, as one appearing to deal out the wages of a mercenary hireling, for an independent and spontaneous discharge of a duty to God, my king, and country.

There is another instance of my forbearance. I might also, if I had been governed by a mere pecuniary motive or selfish view, have justly applied to the Prince, who, from a comparatively obscure state and scanty income, in Germany, had the rare and enviable fortune to be chosen by the heiress to the British throne, to share in the pure felicities of her virgin love, and become the wedded partner of her imperial destiny. If ever gratitude touched a human heart, surely I had strong grounds for a

reasonable belief, that this young prince, in the halcyon days of his joy, and the full flow of his newly-acquired royal revenue, with a large share of commanding influence, and with the power to recommend, reward, and promote, would have felt deeply grateful to a British subject, who, at the risk of exposing himself to the inhuman malice which pursued her, had employed the powerful instrumentality of the press to vindicate the chastity, and save the life of his *beloved* consort's august mother. He must know, that if the fountain was tainted, the current, which was to him love, wealth, fame, and every thing, could not run pure. I had contributed the best endeavours of my humble ability to give security and fixture to the whole fabric of his conjugal treasure, and all his earthly possessions. Even a husband, with the cold heart and sordid soul of an INKLE or an ELWES, could not, for his own interest, pass by the merits of a man, who had employed his best powers to settle for ever that apprehended danger from some future wicked pretence for a disputed succession to the throne, which startled Lord Thurlow in 1805 and 6, and was assigned as the pretext for bringing the *atrocious accusation* before an illustrious personage; and so, in the end, for pouring that overwhelming affliction on the saddened heart and grey hairs of his late Majesty. Yet, with as high and proud a feeling as ever swelled in the breast of that young, German Prince, I forbore from ever either directly or indirectly seeking, in any way, to make myself known to the high-souled Lord of Claremont.

Finally, I ask at what season is it, that a selfish mercenary man volunteers his services in behalf of princes or lords? Is it when they are enthralled by a desperate need, and in the woeful extremity of exhaustion? Or is it in the broad sun-shine and full harvest of their fortunes? When that unhappy king, Edward the Second, was led about by his

barbarous keepers, when they spit on his face, pulled his beard, and shaved him in the open fields with cold dirty water from a ditch, while his warm tears bedewed his pale cheeks, did his mincing courtiers erect the royal standard, and flock to his rescue? When *Maria Antoinette*, the forlorn *Queen of France*, stood at the bar of a sanguinary tribunal, before a gang of cruel and impious miscreants, the *pretended representatives of the religion, morals, order, and power of France*, did a thousand swords start from their scabbards in her defence, or her gallant nobles throw themselves between her and her assailants? No, they fled for safety, as emigrants, out of the kingdom. No fresh levies joined her in Paris, when her own traitorous subjects sought to accomplish their golden hopes by shedding her royal blood; and in horrid violation of humanity, and even the colour of justice, first *invented the charges to suit their atrocious purpose*, and, *to dishonor her memory in the grave*, put their *obscene falsehoods, and lewd \* abominable fabrications* into the murderous mouths of wretches from the *vilest dregs of Europe*, bribed and suborned *with the public money*. Or who stepped in to save her,

\* The grace, majesty, and royal demeanor of the unhappy Queen of France, had won her the love of the people; and the same vile artifices were employed to render her unpopular, which have been, and are practised in all countries, on *similar occasions*; that is, where a queen is to be sacrificed. To rob her of the public sympathy, and in some measure excuse their own cruelty in the eye of posterity, the execrable conspirators against her publicly coupled her name with that of the young Dauphin, her son. They were even so lost to all shame, as to put the horrid question to her on her trial. *She* was struck silent for a moment, and then, "*I appeal to all mothers against this charge*"---was the reply of this most desolate mother, to the merciless demons, her persecutors. We have been spared this black and detestable calumny in this country. Our queen Caroline Amelia of England has no son; and those Italian and German miscreants, imported by the *Green Bag managers*, and *paid out of the taxes of England*, have not brought against Her Majesty a similar accusation.

when they framed an *ex post facto* law to *suit their forged charges*; and, bringing the whole power of the state to bear against their devoted victim, *acting at once as legislators, accusers, jury and judges*, passed sentence upon her, and with the edge of their new-made law struck off her head upon the scaffold? This hideous farce of a trial has acquired a black and polluted pre-eminence in the annals of infamy, by a prostitution of all that is most solemn and sacred, and essential to the integrity of judicial proceedings. It exhibited the dreadful spectacle of a legislative body assembled, with grave seemings and solemn legal plausibilities, to commit a deliberate murder upon an innocent and beautiful woman, and that woman a queen! and that queen the widow of a murdered king! who had only a few months before stood at the same remorseless bar, and preceded her to an ignominious death by the hands of the common executioner. These representatives were not the placed and pensioned tools and sycophants of a king, but the depraved panders to the worst passions of a frantic democracy. Our court *jacobins* and *radicals* have begun their attack upon monarchy by a trial to dethrone the Queen of England. The *French jacobins* deemed it wiser first to dethrone and decapitate their monarch, knowing that the other would follow of course, and that *the same farce of a trial would answer for both*. Their proceedings against their *queen* were cloaked in a pall of state necessity and holy purpose, and conducted by a republican attorney-general, who, when the suborned witnesses were imperfect in their tale, or had forgot their lesson, prompted them with **LEADING QUESTIONS**, to enable them to swear, with something like consistency, to the forged inventions of a secret commission. This diabolical law-agent of Robespierre and Marat was apparently opposed to, but secretly in league with, a

double-tongued and treacherous advocate for the unhappy queen, who permitted *leading questions* to be put on all the main points, which went to touch the life of his royal client, while he affected, now and then, to break out into sham furies, and empty blustering on points of little or no importance. The whole scene displayed a continued dispute about forms, and a violation of principles; a round of trick and fraud, of quirk and treacherous cunning, such as might have been expected from the indurated heart and pestilent head of a crafty *president*, grown grey in the iniquitous practice of making the worse appear the better cause. A ROYAL DUKE too, the Duke of Orleans, an uncle by marriage to the deserted queen, was among her judges. This profligate man had, through life, wallowed in the filth of countless adulteries, like a hog in the mire. But the smooth-tongued hypocrite, after some jabbering cant of "*conscience*, and the *public good*," voted for her death, and then hastened to drown his remorse in the impure society of abandoned women, who, only a few months after, shouted "*Ca ira*," and danced and yelled, and clapped their hands, with demoniac joy, when they beheld the gory head of his ROYAL HIGHNESS roll a sightless ball upon the public scaffold.

The example was not the first, nor will it, I fear, be the last instance, that a king or queen, when once stripped of the functions and powers of royalty, and placed at the bar by their own subjects, has any thing to expect but truth, honor, humanity, and justice. Whether the judges have been the infuriated representatives of a blind and turbulent democracy, or the cool, crafty, servile and cruel tools, in parliament, of a Henry the Eighth, or a Cromwell, the issue has ever been determined before the trial. Historians have agreed, that the space between the throne and the grave of

a deposed monarch is always very short. The single circumstance of a king or a queen being put on their trial, ensures their condemnation; because they are never formally arraigned and called upon for their defence, until they have been first deprived of all competent means of defence, and left only just sufficient liberty of speaking by themselves or their counsel, to afford them a specious appearance of a trial, and to impose upon the credulous. A king is always brought to the bar by those enemies, who have overthrown his royal power, and who dread his vengeance, in case of his restoration. How can he hope to escape from judges who, to maintain the power which they have torn from him, and to ensure their own safety, have a double interest in his condemnation and death. Their bringing him before a tribunal is merely a trick to get rid of an object of their fears, without, themselves, directly incurring the reproach of murder. It is still worse with a queen, for the power and influence of the state, in every kingdom, are lodged in the hands of the sovereign; and no king will ever degrade himself in the eyes of his subjects, by exposing his consort to such an indignity, until he has either wrongfully, or on what he conceives to be just ground, abandoned the character of her natural protector, and adopted a principle of hatred and hostility against her. Colour and disguise the thing ever so much, still he is *the party against her*: and the very act of placing her as a criminal at the bar is *quite enough*, even if no direct means were employed, to signify his *will* to all that base tribe of political fortune-hunters about a court, to whom a look or a nod are quite sufficient, and who are never at a loss to find some grave state reason for any perpetration, by which they can hope to retain office or obtain promotion.

In all private conversations, the *present company* is, by special grace and favor, for very cogent

reasons, understood to be out of the question : that is, wholly excepted from reflection or allusion ; so I am bound expressly to state that, in referring to former trials of kings and queens, I beg leave to assure His Majesty's attorney-general, that the PRESENT TRIAL of the Queen of England, with the present tribunal of the King's servants and the Lords, her subjects, who are sitting as her judges, are altogether and especially excluded. I have no intention to praise or blame them ; and if I had ever so much reason for confidence and admiration, or for pity, grief, scorn, horror, and indignation, at their proceedings, it would be equally useless to applaud, and unsafe to express my feelings, in censure or condemnation. The acquittal of Queen *Emma* by the fiery ordeal, was a very miraculous, merciful, pretty sort of a business. Luckily the hope of a blue riband, the promise of a star and garter, the fear of losing a tellership of the exchequer, or the place of chief secretary of state, if these grand orders and official good things, had been then in existence, could not have had any very great influence in corrupting the stern and inflexible integrity of a *burning plough-share*. Of course the acquittal of Emma forms a brilliant exception of impartial judgment, among the number of condemned kings and queens recorded by history. Queen Catharine of Arragon, was not under any criminal accusation ; for although the bloody tyrant, her husband, wished to rid himself of her, in order to marry Anne Boleyn, he would not permit the remorseless instruments of his bad passions, who whispered a treasonable impeachment to him, as a convenient expedient, to put their scheme in practice. Catharine saw that it was in vain to expect justice from a tribunal under her husband's influence, she therefore firmly protested against the whole form of trial, and competence of the court, and bowing with dignified calmness, re-

tired. If she had listened to the advice of some weak and perfidious counsellors, and have joined issue before the court, by the act of pleading, she would have acknowledged its competence, and might have been supposed to have implied some supposition of its integrity and independence, contrary to the palpable fact, and her own just convictions.

The absurd and horrid charges of adultery, incest, and adulterous familiarities, charged against both Queen Anne Boleyn and Queen Catharine Howard, are too monstrous, improbable, and indeed ridiculous for belief. They were each tried by a court of King Henry the Eighth's peers; and the disgusting improbability of the accusations did not save the accused queens. The Lords, who unanimously found them guilty, were either corrupted by hopes of the King's favor, or intimidated by apprehensions of his vengeance. From the creatures, parasites, tools, and trembling vassals of their ruthless enemy, who, instead of acting as their natural protector, had determined their death, what justice could the unhappy objects of his hatred have expected? There were, no doubt, some upright men among these judges; but the honest votes of a small majority would only have exposed them to the king's vengeance, and could not have saved the intended victims. A sheep in the slaughter-house, if indued with speech and reason, might as well expect to obtain mercy from a butcher, on the market day, as Queen Catharine of Arragon, Queen Anne Boleyn, and Queen Catharine Howard, expect justice or mercy from any court of commission under the King, their adversary's influence. The concurring testimony of all historians has established the innocence of the second of these queens. The horrid character of Henry, and the utter improbability that, after he had, with so little ceremony, beheaded one wife on a charge of adultery, another would have risked her head, by a commission



of that crime, are evidences quite sufficient to discredit the charges against the third, notwithstanding her supposed confession. But in each case, as in that of Queen Maria Antoinette, a *queen was to be got rid of*, and it is pretty plain, that kings and republicans, in such cases, have, heretofore, not been very long at a loss for witnesses, cabinet ministers, and judges, to accomplish their object.

In England, at present, the arbitrary power exercised by our monarchs some centuries ago, is, in the words of Hume, exchanged for Royal influence, which, if it means any thing, implies that those objects, which our Richards, and Edwards, and Henrys obtained by force or intimidation, a *George* or a *Frederick* may constitutionally or legally, come at by gracious nods, and smiles, and promises, or places and pensions. Of the two modes, the latter is, by much, the better for all parties. Mr. Charles Fox, at the time when he was honored with the title of "the Prince's Friend," stoutly maintained in Parliament, that "*the power of the Crown has increased, is increasing, and ought to be diminished.*" This was I think near forty years ago, and I presume Lord Holland, the Marquis of Lansdowne, Lord Grenville, or Earl Grey, can decide whether the power of the crown has or has not doubled since that period. I am, myself, of opinion, it has most enormously increased, and is increasing at this moment. To touch this matter quietly, I hope I may be allowed to say, without giving any offence to Lord Castlereagh or his colleagues, that the crown has not lost many more than three or four strong questions in either the House of Lords or Commons, out of the many thousand that have been debated, within the walls of St. Stephen's Chapel, these last forty years. The ministers of the day have now, for such a length of time, been accustomed to carry every one of their propositions with a sweeping

majority, that the sure way to anticipate the fate of any intended Parliamentary measure, is to enquire whether it is to be brought in by the ministers or by the opposition. If the measure is to be introduced by Lord Castlereagh in the Commons; or by Lord Liverpool or Sidmouth in the House of Lords, its success is certain before its introduction. If a gamester were to offer five hundred, or one thousand pounds to fifty, or twenty, or ten pounds, that a bill of Lord Castlereagh's introduction would not be rejected, he would find no one, acquainted with Parliament, to accept his wager.

Why then should we depart from the usual unerring mode of anticipation in the Queen's case? We all know that the King's minister and servant was the introducer and manager of the *Green Bag* in the Commons; and it is equally notorious that His Majesty's ministers and servants were the introducers and managers of that in the House of Lords. The two Green Bags were brought down, with each a gracious message from the King, that his faithful Lords and Commons would take their contents into consideration. His Majesty is, therefore, evidently anxious to have the question decided between him and his august consort.

In stating the preceding remarks, and in those which form the present paragraph, I have not once inserted the words "*corruption*" or "*venality*," and have abstained from those accusations which are usually preferred against parliament by political writers on the subject of reform. I have taken up the pen in 1820, as in 1806, for one object, and have no intention to prove or deny the existence of corruption or venality, but solely to confine myself to the treasonable and disloyal persecution of the Queen, and such relative circumstances as are absolutely accessory to that lamentable subject. It is not necessary for me here to assign causes for the prevailing influence which the ministers for the

constitution, and to the monarchy, and our zeal for the person and royal dignity of the monarch, must be undiminished and as ardent as ever. A wicked minister, *in order to escape responsibility and punishment himself*, may whisper it abroad that he is an unwilling instrument. But this amounts to no defence; for, on the general principle of his public duty, if, after having given a sound advice, a contrary measure be adopted, bad in itself, and likely to be attended by heinous consequences to the nation, it is his duty to protest against the measure, and resign his situation in the cabinet. There is no political axiom more certain than this, that a King of England, who cannot rule by the affections of his people, and who has lost their affections by evil counsels, will find the same evil counsellors ready to advise him to rule by a military force. From this political view, that is, in the sentence which immediately precedes this, I wholly exclude the present reign and circumstances, and speak altogether hypothetically. It is the true interest and duty, therefore, of every British subject, although zealous and active in the support of truth and justice, to abstain, at this moment, from all unconstitutional feeling; to give his detestation a *due direction*; to endeavour to draw closer the ties of harmony and loyal affection between the monarchy and the people; and, with all possible speed, to turn the whole tide of public indignation and horror into one deep and irresistible stream of petitions against the wicked advisers of this black enormity, who have attempted to degrade royalty, and squander the public revenue, the taxes collected from her affectionate subjects, in a conspiracy to destroy their royal mistress, our beloved Queen. It was with the royal revenues that Charles the First of England, and Louis the Sixteenth, with his Queen, Maria-Antoinette, of France, were murdered by their own subjects, after the horrid mockery of

public trial, and under the show and forms of law and justice. The twenty or thirty thousand pounds, wrung in taxes from the poor people of England, in the sad hour of their distress, and mentioned by Sir Ronald Furguson, as the first outfit in buying up of evidence and witnesses, to destroy the Queen of England, are to be followed up, in the words of one of those grey-headed, heartless statesmen, by the expenditure of UNLIMITED SUMS, in the course of Her Majesty's trial; that is, in the accomplishing of their dangerous and alarming object. Trusting to the overwhelming influence of the crown, they hope to involve the proud and high-minded nobility and gentry of the United Kingdom, with the heads of the law, and the bench of bishops, the pious dignitaries of the church, in the inexpiable issue of this unparalleled catastrophe. But I hope, amidst all my fears, to see these human wolves and political vampyres scared from their royal prey, by the omnipotent outcry of British humanity, and the constitutional force of public opinion.

Whatever can be done to chase away the spirit of conspiracy, and to create a good and kind spirit of union in the highest quarter, ought to be speedily accomplished. The genius, virtue, energy, and public spirit, of the empire, ought to rally round the throne of the King, and his august Queen Caroline; and to uphold the majesty of our gracious sovereign, in the person of his consort. There ought to be no division of interests or of loyalty. The King, King George the Fourth, God bless, and direct, and preserve him! The Queen, Queen Caroline, God bless, watch over, and preserve her!—ought to be the cry of those who abhor confusion, love peace, are true friends to the House of Brunswick, would uphold the monarchy, and terminate our evil prospects, by leading us out of darkness into light.

We cannot, at the same time, be too prompt, too strong, too loud, too unanimous, in our execration of this intended act of barbarity and treason. Nor can our petitions be too speedily sent in against the cold-blooded perpetrators, who have, so far, dishonored England, and disgraced the House of Brunswick, in making the atrocious attempt. We shall thus be guided by our constitutional regard for the Crown, and our inviolable fidelity to His Majesty; and shall render those corrupters of the public morals, and counsellors of wickedness, odious and hateful in his sight.

I have already remarked, that the entire responsibility of this appalling transaction, with all its incalculable consequences, rests upon the heads of the King's counsellors. After having lavished the public money to array these tremendous charges against their royal mistress, her acquittal would place them in a situation of extreme difficulty and danger. When they refused her a list of the witnesses against her, and also refused to specify the time when, and places where, the alleged acts, charged against her had taken place, they subjected her to such insurmountable disadvantages, as rendered it next to impossible for her, however innocent, to defend herself. How is it possible for her, where the acts charged extend to six years, and to Italy, Greece, Asia, and Africa, to be able to contradict a hired swarm of witnesses, of the lowest class, from these countries. Were an angel from God's right hand, to be subjected to such an unheard of and iniquitous issue, and to be restricted to human means, not the innocence of the whole heavenly host could provide means of defence, or ward off the inevitable sentence of condemnation. In all these proceedings we see no just ground to accuse the King, her husband's servants, of an inclination in her favor. It is impossible not to see which way their inclination lies, or to forget Mr. Fox's declaration,

nearly forty years ago, that "*the power of the crown has increased, is increasing, and ought to be diminished.*" It is impossible to forget that the men who wield the whole of the overwhelming power and influence of the crown, are the paid servants and ministers, the counsellors and advisers, of the King, her husband, the plaintiff against this exalted and noble-minded female: it is impossible also to forget, that these hired and paid servants and ministers, counsellors and advisers of the King, her husband, the plaintiff against her, are the men who established the Milan commission, who have expended thousands upon thousands of the public money in raking together a gang of foreigners, as witnesses, for her dethronement; who filled the Green Bag, appointed the secret committee in the House of Lords, framed the bill of pains and penalties for her degradation, six weeks before she was put on trial; and with cold-blooded enormity, beyond that of the ignoble miscreants, who conspired the mock trial and death of the queen, Maria Antoinette, had the flagitious and monstrous effrontery to bring their royal mistress, the Queen of England, to trial in an assembly of her own subjects, wherein they have never failed to carry \*

\* If they have let any minor question go against them, I do not consider such an exception a contradiction of the spirit and tenor of this proof of their overwhelming power. The ministry is the same in the main, notwithstanding some official shifting of the members, which succeeded the Fox and Grenville administration. The death of Mr. Perceval only made a chasm, soon supplied. On matters of form a minister may, no doubt, make a seeming contest with Mr. Brougham, and affect to lose his accustomed majority in the Lords also; but, on any vital point, such as the furnishing a list of the witnesses, and names of the places where the acts are charged to have taken place, I venture to predict his majority will be overwhelming. A show of something like impartiality is an essential feature of the attempt against the Queen: and to lessen the deep dark shades of the business, it is necessary to have it said by the credulous and unthinking: well, *you see we did not let Ministers have their way in every thing.*

every vital question with a sweeping and triumphant majority, during the whole thirteen years of their administration. The just competence of the House of Lords I uphold; it is the competence, the justice, and integrity, of the ministers which I deny.

It is true the minister was in a minority, in the House of Commons, since the introduction of this disgraceful business: but, before that evening, the Green Bag managers had secured the appointment of a secret committee in the House of Lords, to examine into the mass of filth, which they had raked together as evidence against the Queen. From the moment that committee was appointed, whoever read the list could, by no possibility, be at a loss for their report. The bill of Pains and Penalties, and the Queen's trial in the Lords, were certain. So that the minister, in *quietly getting into a minority* in the Commons, *after that*, in reality, lost nothing but the power of bringing the Queen to a second trial, in case the Lords had acquitted Her Majesty. The attempt to obtain this tyrannical and unjust power was too revolting, and by resigning a majority on this point, he acquired a sort of distant appearance of something like impartiality. I must retain a melancholy hope to the last; but were I to speak from my apprehensions, I must own that the law of gravitation is not more certain than the issue.

Of Her Majesty's deplorable situation in 1806, when, impelled by humble duty, sorrow, deep indignation, and a dread of public evil, I wrote the letters, signed "Humanitas," with my initial "C—" the following extract will show my opinion. I have not inserted the name of my great opponent in 1806, because in 1812-14, and 1820, he has exerted, and is exerting, his best abilities on the side of truth and justice, in behalf of our august Queen Caroline Amelia. For which, although I have never had any personal intimacy with him,

and never, by any chance, have seen him but for two or three minutes, he has my hearty approbation. He has been lately pronounced, by the Examiner, and with great justice, one of the ablest political writers of the day; but he will *now* do me the justice to own that, in 1806, I was on this one question, "the delicate investigation," far his superior in political sagacity. *He* saw no conspiracy against the Princess of Wales: on the contrary, I termed the charge of her *pregnancy* and *delivery of a male child*, "a false and groundless calumny," "an atrocious accusation;"\* an existing combination to destroy the reputation of the second female in the land. That able writer was of opinion, there was a combination to crush the Knight and his Lady; that is, the two infamous conspirators, Sir John Douglas and his Lady, whom he termed the "*weaker party*;" implying thereby, that the Princess of Wales was the stronger, and likely to crush the dark and powerful confederacy against her. His opinion was maintained by all my assailants; and the following extracts from one of my letters will shew how far I was successful in replying to, and refuting that assertion.

"That it is wrong to attempt to prejudge a case is admitted. But Mr.\*\*\*\*\*, when you asserted that the baronet and his lady are the '*weaker party*,'

\* See title page of my printed letters: "Atrocious Accusation," 8vo. seventy-two closely printed pages. "Bristol, printed by Kemp and Co. Mercury Office, and sold by T. Ostell, Ave Maria Lane, Ludgate-street, London." These letters were first printed in the "Bristol Mercury," at Bristol; and in the "*Blackburn Mail*," at Blackburn, in Lancashire. They were copied into several other provincial and London papers. While the whole power of the press, in the pay of the conspirators, was employed to destroy the character of Her Royal Highness, I had *eleven* provincial journals, each week endeavouring to counteract the conspirators. With more zeal than power, I was a *gratuitous volunteer* in the cause, from a conviction that the Princess was innocent.



I cannot help expressing my surprise at the assertion. From any other person it would look like an attempt to support a *weak* argument by an *appeal* to our *pity*. I ask of you, setting all consideration of the *guilt* or *innocence* of the *accusers* and *accused* out of the question, how could you so far deceive yourself into an opinion, that *the accusers in this case are weaker*, that is, *more in danger* and *more in need of defence* than the *accused*? Do you know the *real*, the *calamitous situation* of the *latter*, or have you forgotten those *circumstances* of her *suffering*, which have covered every *honest heart* with sorrow for so many years? If the words *weaker party* can at all justly apply to the *accusers*, their *weakness* can only be inferred from a comparison with some *circumstances* of high and powerful protection which surround the *accused*, or some *exalted enemies threatening the accusers*. But we have heard of no high and powerful enemies who threaten her *accusers*; we know of no *exalted interests* but the *general good*, which would be *promoted by the failure of their accusation*. They came forward, as that *searcher of hearts*, the S\*\*\*\*\*, informs the public, '*under a most honorable sense of duty!*' They have been honored by your defence, and, no doubt, *they will be honored accordingly*.

"On the contrary, *where are those circumstances of high and powerful protection* that surround the *accused*? Do they arise out of that mass of commanding interests, which would ultimately be brought nearer in succession to the throne, in the event of her condemnation? Who are those powerful friends of a woman so long treated as an ALIEN and a stranger, so long an EXILE from her own home? Is it the general effect of adversity to increase and strengthen friendships; and is she likely to be better protected, because, in the hour of adversity, she is remote from the advice and consolation

of her *Father and Mother*, and her *immediate kindred*? Is it probable that she will find more advocates, because she has been *for years deprived of the affections of her husband, rejected from his presence, and abandoned in her prime, to wither in loneliness, under his displeasure*? Yes, *this is the* PUISSANT, the FORMIDABLE WOMAN! before whom *her accusers are to tremble, and feel themselves the* WEAKER PARTY! Who shall face the dreadful artillery of her *confederated amities*? Who dare to break through the *faithful and vigilant guards* that surround her? On her right sits CALUMNY, with *one hand grasping at* \* REWARDS, and *the other attempting to stain the brow of INNOCENCE with imputed crime*.. On her left SUSPICION, with eyes askant, watching even the hour of prayer, and ready to convert the sigh of resignation and sorrow into a charge of *intended guilt*. Behind her lurks *ambitious hatred, burning for the overthrow of her character, and eager to usurp her place*. Before her stands PERFIDY, *under the mask of Friendship*; and hastening from her, in the distance, a crowd of *hollow sons and daughters of Fashion, those summer insects, that buz and flutter in the sunshine of prosperity, but fly when the storm lours, and leave their stings in the heart*. Is not this array enough to *intimidate her accusers*? Dare they *depose against a woman* SO POWERFULLY PROTECTED? Must they not *fear to rouse the resentments of THIS PRINCESS* WITHOUT A COURT, this WIFE WITHOUT A HUSBAND, this mother † WITHOUT A CHILD? Will

\* A rumour, in June, 1806, was current, that a lady of large fortune, who had been in favour before the marriage of Her Royal Highness, had conspired with Sir John and Lady Douglas, and had suborned some discarded menials, who had been in the service of the Princess. Subsequent circumstances transpired to show, that the lady alluded to took no active part in the conspiracy.

† Alas! I little thought, when I wrote this, that I would ever live to see this august mother without a child. Little

they not be silenced by the frown of *this mistress*

did I think, when I strove to defend the mother, that I would ever live to lament the untimely end of her beloved daughter, at the moment of bringing forth a lineal heir to the British throne. If that desolate mother had not been driven into exile, in 1814, by conspiracy, neglect, and persecution, perhaps her tender care and watchful eye might have stimulated the vigilance of her medical attendant to a more strict discharge of his duty, and saved those two precious lives. The suicide, committed, so soon after, by her officiating *accoucheur*, *Sir Richard Crofts*, notwithstanding the exculpatory letter of Prince Leopold, marks his remorseful sense of that most unexpected and deplorable catastrophe. Had the Princess Charlotte been living, who would have dared to have brought forward another conspiracy, to blacken and destroy her august parent? England would, in that case, have been saved from the night of infamy, which must now, for ever, stain her annals, in recording the last dreadful attempt to finish this black domestic tragedy, by squandering thousands of the taxes taken from the distressed people of England, for the horrid purpose of hiring witnesses over the continent, to destroy their beloved queen.

I here insert an expression of my feelings while this young and lovely princess lay a cold and inanimate corpse at Claremont. It alludes to the reported national mark of respect to her memory, to be executed by a British sculptor. "This command over the heart is a grand feature of Chantrey's style. It eminently fits him to execute the monument, which the sorrow of a whole people consecrates to the memory of that august princess, in whose youth, beauty, and virtues, the hopes of the royal house, and the empire, were treasured. The dumb marble may best bear testimony, where words cannot express the nobility and majesty of her nature. Her hand was as a fountain of living waters to the thirsty; an inheritance of food and raiment to the widow and orphan, the sick at heart and desolate in spirit. A wife, in her bloom, proof against the allurements of her imperial fortune, she lived only in the circle of her conjugal felicity, tenderly loving and beloved! An heiress to the proudest diadem in the universe, converted into an instance of fleeting grandeur, even in the hour that was to have made her the joyful mother of a babe, to grace and perpetuate a line of kings. It was but as yesterday, she shone, on high, like a light in the firmament; and the hearts of seventeen millions rejoiced in her brightness. To-day, it is, as if the Angel of destruction had smote the first-born in every house. I look up, and stretch forth my hands, in a land of lamentation and darkness; for the beam of her glory has passed away like a morning splendour, that shows and shines, and vanishes in

*without \* servants, this lady without honors, invited to this island to circle her brows with a diadem, and to be the ornament of a throne; although now marked out by the remorseless fury of an undefinable crisis, like another Mary Stuart, to submit her tresses to the grasp of an executioner, and to effuse her persecuted soul upon a scaffold?" (Atrocious Accusation," page 13, 14, and 15.)*

It will be observed that the above is a plea put in, to disprove an assertion generally maintained by my opponents of the periodical press, that Sir John and Lady Douglas were not conspirators, but persons moved by an *honorable sense of duty*: that they were the *weaker party*, and in *danger* of being *crushed by a combination*, that is, in danger of being *crushed by a combination, or conspiracy*, in favor of the *Princess of Wales!* The obvious inference

the heavens." (Critical Description of West's grand Picture of Death on the Pale Horse, by William Carey, 8vo. page 142, published December the 31st, 1817.)

\* On the seventh of June, 1806, the Duke of Kent, with two attorneys, one of whom was an agent of the Douglas conspiracy, suddenly appeared at the Princess of Wales's house at Blackheath, and took away half of Her Royal Highness's servants, to examine and cross-examine these menials, in support of an atrocious charge of treason and adultery against their august mistress, the pregnancy and delivery of a male child. The Duke of Kent, on the twenty-seventh of December, 1806, wrote a "*narrative*," which occupies five pages in "*The Book*;" and although it does not contain a tittle of evidence in support of that atrocious accusation, it was brought before the late king, to give it a colouring. But notwithstanding this *high and royal support*, and the efforts of the Earl of Moira, on the thirteenth and fourteenth of May, 1806, and on the twentieth of the same month, with Mr. Samuel Gillam Mills and Mr. Thomas Edmeades, Her Royal Highness's two surgeons, the atrocious accusation was proved, by the report of the secret commissioners, to be utterly destitute of foundation. The *narrative* was brought forward to support the main charge against the Princess: it is a most important historical document, and contains a statement of existing circumstances, which afford most palpable proof of the deep-laid plan for the destruction of Her Royal Highness.

from this was, that the Princess was guilty of the charge against her, and was endeavouring to escape from justice by a combination, or conspiracy, to *crush* Sir John and Lady Douglas, the conspirators. This gross mis-statement left me no choice of the mode or materials of my reply in defence of her Royal Highness, but that of showing she had not the means to crush them; that, in every particular, she was desolate, friendless, the weaker of the two; a beset woman, a bereft mother, a deserted wife, and a Princess without state, suffering under unmerited neglect and contumely, and marked out, by an atrocious accusation, to perish on the scaffold. If it had not been so boldly published to the world, that the conspirators were the *weaker party*, and in danger of being *crushed* by a *combination*, I would not have been under the painful necessity of resorting to a statement of melancholy realities, with a view to rouse the public voice and sympathy, and contribute, as far as I could, to her rescue. My defence of the intended victim was an act altogether forced upon me by a strong sense of grief, commiseration, and a dreadful anticipation of the consequences to the royal family and the country. I had no option left me as to *when* or *where* I was to join battle, and was obliged to give the signal, and lead the onset, upon the grounds on which the enemy had drawn up their forces.

My letters were written under ill health, and without any opportunity of correcting, and often even without time for perusing the first \* rough

\* I stated this in the following passage of the preface to my letters: "The author had no time to attend to niceties of composition. The printer's boy, frequently, stood by waiting for the sheets as they were written: he took them away two or three at a time wet, to the printing-office, and one half of each letter was set up by the compositors before the other was thought of by the writer. Under such circumstances, it may be easily supposed that he lost many advantages of revision, method, and luminous arrangement." (See page vii. "Atrocious Accusation," 1806.)

draught of my thoughts. My communications with the Bristol Mercury, and Blackburn Mail, went into extensive details; and I had to read all the periodical publications, employed to gain credit for the conspirators, and their atrocious charge of the pregnancy and delivery of a male child. Without a careful perusal of these incessant libels, I could not have been sufficiently master of their concerted plans, or able to expose them. I also wrote, and sent short essays and leading paragraphs to nine other provincial weekly journals, in order to expose the conspirators. The fatigue was overwhelming, and I well remember, on two occasions, going to bed at one in the morning, and rising again at five: my pen was in my hand during the remaining twenty hours, except during my short meal-times. But for these two exertions, I must have lost a fortnight without \* publication, when time was most precious. I mention these circumstances to show, that any vague or hasty expressions against the conspirators may not be interpreted or applied beyond my real meaning. I wrote with the singleness of an honest intention, to rescue the Princess of Wales; and with the most

\* The effect of the press at that important crisis was strongly exemplified. I alluded to it in one of my letters—"Yes, reader, I at this moment hear, I participate in your pity and indignation. But do not mistake: you are not in France: you are not under the daggers of Marat, nor the prescriptions of Robespierre. It is in England, that nurse of sages, and that land of heroes, where law and liberty live, and where character and property are protected: yes, it is in England that *this dreadful tragedy has been rehearsed*. The actors got off their parts; the prompter stood behind the scenes; the editors of the *Libellist* delivered the prologue; and the curtain was about to be drawn up; when, lo, in this crisis of horror, the *Press* thundered; the sympathy of a generous nation awoke; a groan of compassion ascended to the ear of the Most High; the authors were irretrievably damned; and the GOD of NATURE and JUSTICE *forbade the piece to be acted*."—(Page 25, "Atrocious Accusation,"—1896.)

perfect sense of humble duty for her illustrious consort; always hoping for a re-union, and conceiving that no true friend to the House of Brunswick would endeavour to render a Prince and Princess, whom God had joined, odious to each other, by any unnecessary allusions, or wilful exasperations. I refer to pages 6 and 7 of my letters, where I particularly vindicated His Royal Highness from some base imputations in the form of familiar praise, and implied intimacy with him, published by the hired libellers, who in the same columns sought to blast the character of his august spouse, and further the object of the conspiracy. I uniformly mentioned that exalted personage in these letters with the most profound respect, and according to the elevated sense which the nation so justly entertained of his public character.

In the preceding extract there are so many of the passages, which apply, *now*, to the intended victim's situation, as Queen of England, that I trust they will have due effect. I will here insert three other extracts from my printed letters in 1806, which I flatter myself will not be lost on the public, at the present dreadful crisis. "Wherever *indirect* means are resorted to *against an accused person*, a strong and general conclusion is drawn, that *real proofs are wanting*: and, in such cases, the general *legal presumption* that *every accused person* is INNOCENT UNTIL THE CONTRARY IS PROVED AGAINST THEM, becomes strengthened by *additional presumptions* that the CRIME CHARGED is UTTERLY DESTITUTE OF FOUNDATION." (p. 25).

This was my public view of the case, from the fact, that while the *committee of secrecy* was sitting, the press was employed to blacken and blast the character of the Princess of Wales, precisely as it has been since employed for years against Her Royal Highness; and more particularly since the

commencement of the present examination of the hired witnesses against Her Majesty in the House of Lords. Many traits of the Princess's noble spirit reached me at the time; and I have since learned some dreadful particulars of the villainy practised against her, in the fabrication of the horrid publications for the deliberate destruction of her character. A *nobleman*, who, in the month of May, 1806, made a notable figure in attempting to bring forward evidences to support the false charges of pregnancy, and the delivery of the male child, has since endeavoured to clear himself by public denials of any share in writing the infamous libels on the Princess; but his denials were uncalled for, and prompted by his own consciousness only. According to the account which I received, one journal was paid about a thousand pounds for mere paragraphs alone, in support of the conspiracy.

The following brief appeal in my second letter applies most forcibly now. "Reader! lift up your eyes to the elevated rank and distinction of this abused lady: think of her birth, her intimate relationship to your king: recollect her past unhappy situation, her present deplorable one: sum up her wounded feelings as a woman, as the chosen wife of your king's son, as the mother of your future queen: behold her, I say, far from the land of her fathers, an exile from her own dwelling, a stranger in your land; then cast down your eyes to the mire of infamy in which these hungry assassins are plunged, who have dared, in the presence of Europe, to spit their venom in her face. Compare all things, and I defy you to produce, in any civilized nation, another instance, in which a Lady of equal rank has been attacked WITH SUCH IMPUNITY, so openly and wantonly, with circumstances of such base and murderous atrocity. Yes, I defy you to produce a parallel to it in the history of ancient or modern times; from the flagitious proscriptions of



old Rome, to that era of crimes, when the unhappy *Maria-Antoinette stood at the bar, and was compelled to hear and submit to the horrid accusation, of the National Assembly.*" (p. 8, ib.)

I trust, by this time, my reader will fairly judge, whether, in attacking the conspirators, in 1806, I was more like the mercenary, Ariartes, in the hope of plunder, following the countless host of Xerxes to the invasion of Greece; or Horatius Coeles, leaping, with desperate hazard, on the forlorn hope of the bridge, to arrest the army of Porsenna, and save Rome. In drawing my pen that year, in the worst hour of her danger, I exposed myself for life to the malice of the powerful confederacy against Her Royal Highness. This will acquit me of a selfish motive; and I will now return to the memorial, intimated to me in Lord Yarmouth's letter of the sixth of April, 1812, in reply to mine.

I had heard that, in the public offices of government, every thing depends upon the observance of certain prescribed forms; and I was not *then* sure what variations were necessary in a memorial addressed to the Prince Regent from those which are addressed to the King. If a favorable spirit existed in the circle, I was of opinion that the formality of a memorial would not have been pointed out to me. Placing me on the ground of a memorialist was, in effect, sending me to a road full of pit-falls, where a single step might be deemed irrecoverable. A slight deviation from any point of form might afford a grave statesman a sufficient plea for getting rid of the vindicator, and the principle of vindicating the Princess of Wales. In the wording, tone, and language, of a memorial from a private individual to so elevated a personage as the Prince Regent, a writer must be extremely liable to meet objection on so delicate a subject. But my greatest repugnance was a point of proud feeling with a view to public consequences: as the vindication of

the Princess had originated in my own breast, and been altogether a spontaneous act, I was convinced that it would redound most highly to the honor of her illustrious husband, if his gracious approbation in whatever public form it might be conveyed, and by whatever permanent office, promotion, or grant, it might be accompanied, were to flow from his own breast spontaneously. No circumstance could have proved a more salutary antidote to the evil opinions produced by the impunity and favor of the conspirators.

It was necessary for me, also, to be specific: but how could I be explicit, in a case of such lamentable tendencies and infinite difficulty, where the great public benefit, which I had in view, so imminently involved the prevention of future conspiracy, and so nearly touched the vital interests of the state, and pressed so immediately on the honor of the Crown. Could I state: and your memorialist begs leave to represent, that he has been moved to submit this memorial from a view of the existing unfortunate combination of circumstances, which, with the force of public sympathies, and other extraordinary concurrences in the public mind, arising out of the impunity and favor enjoyed by the conspirators against your illustrious consort in 1806, have given an undue direction to public opinion, which must deeply affect your Royal Highness's honor, as the natural protector of that august princess, and has a momentous tendency to weaken and dissolve those bonds of union, which ought ever to subsist between a British prince and his subjects. No, I could not write thus openly. I early foresaw these injurious consequences; and in page 5 of my letters in 1806, I *expressly pointed out this dangerous tendency of public opinion, and its ultimate point of fixture.* But my deep sense of duty dictated to me, in 1812, the due precautions for obtaining a happy result. It would have been

deemed equally rash and presumptuous in me to be more explicit than was likely to ensure my public object. It became necessary for me to adopt the means best calculated for that end; to confine my memorial as much as possible to its public grounds; and even to show, in what I had deserved approbation and favor, a distinct prayer, the granting of which would conduce equally to the honor of his Royal Highness and his illustrious consort; although, if my own interest had been merely my object in applying to Lord Yarmouth, in March, 1812, I would, long before, in 1806, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12, have applied for approbation, reward, and favor, to the Princess of Wales herself.

Still there was a necessity for my being explicit as to some specific prayer relative to myself, or I must appear as a private individual, attempting that most monstrous of all presumptions, to give advice in a private form, to one of the most powerful princes in the world, and his counsellors. Otherwise, if *an hostility to the principle of defending and vindicating the Princess existed*, it would be easy for a veteran statesman in the cabinet to reply to me, at once—What does this knight-errant for the Princess say in his memorial? Her royal Highness was charged with the treason of adultery, and the delivery of a male child, and her head was to have been the intended forfeit.—Well, we know enough of that; but what does her hero set forth? Why, forsooth, that he stoutly defended her, and endeavoured to vindicate her with all his might.—Well, what then? What would he have us do? Why does he not specify his object? *He would prevent further conspiracy against the Princess:* but how? What does he want? There is no prayer to his memorial. The man shows a good deal of earnestness in playing the fool.—Thus my memorial, without a prayer, might have passed for so much waste paper.

This point was therefore determined, and I shall here insert the concluding suit of my memorial, with two out of the sixteen heads or clauses,—the third and fifth.

“(3) This *Memorial*, furthermore, most humbly sheweth, that the said *libels* upon the ILLUSTRIOUS PRINCESS, YOUR AUGUST CONSORT, being published in a season when the nation was engaged in foreign war, and threatened with invasion by the newly-founded French republic; when long-established maxims of public policy were unhappily questioned and shaken; and when popular opinion was heated, and THE REVERENCE FOR THE KINGLY AUTHORITY and KINGLY FORM OF GOVERNMENT VIOLENTLY ASSAILED by THE REVOLUTION OF THE NEIGHBOURING KINGDOM; your *Memorialist*, with deep and painful indignation, ENTERTAINED A CONVICTION that the said *libels* were calculated ULTIMATELY to CREATE AN EXTENT OF MISCHIEF EVEN BEYOND THE PROBABLE INTENT of their hireling writer or writers; to WEAKEN the GENERAL ESTEEM and ATTACHMENT to the MONARCHY, IMPAIR THE LUSTRE OF THE CROWN, and LOWER THE DIGNITY OF THE ROYAL FAMILY INDIVIDUALLY and COLLECTIVELY; for, if the SAID UNFOUNDED and ATROCIOUS IMPUTATION and false charge of peril in the \*\*\*\* (\*) were for a moment to be received as a truth, it is not without extreme pain, and throwing himself upon your princely clemency for pardon, that this memorialist reluctantly complies with his duty, in observing, it went to fix on the minds of the persons

\* The name of the *evening journal* is here omitted, although it was inserted in the memorial. I have been informed that the property of that publication has, since 1806, passed through several hands; and it would be most unfair that the present proprietor, whoever he is, should be made responsible for the crimes of the first. I have not seen this newspaper for a long time, but I have been assured that it has for many years acted a manly part in behalf of the Princess of Wales, now our august Queen.

so believing *an opinion involving the \*welfare of the illustrious Princess, your august consort*; and on the contrary, if it were considered, as *it really was*, a FALSE AND WICKED FABRICATION, your memorialist is obliged, with equal pain, and again entreating your clemency, to observe that it went, *to the great grief and indignation of all good men*, to libel the exalted generosity of your royal highness's princely character, by the accompanying false and scandalous insinuations, which artfully implied that the flagitious authors and fabricators of the printed and published libels upon YOUR AUGUST CONSORT, wrote and acted under high authority, moved within your royal highness's confidential circle, had the honor of mingling in your private conversations, been made acquainted with your thoughts and wishes on the subject of the said unfounded and atrocious imputation and charge of PERIL;† and ENJOYED the HIGH PROTECTION of YOUR COUNTENANCE and FAVOR."

"(5) This Memorial furthermore most humbly sheweth that your memorialist entertained a conviction, and it is an historical fact, that the fatal revolution, which barbarised a neighbouring people, devastated their country, subverted the throne, caused the blood of their rightful sovereign and his queen to flow upon a scaffold, and in its explosion, overthrew and convulsed so many thrones and kingdoms, on the continent, WAS COMMENCED BY A SIMILAR DISSEMINATION OF LIBELS UPON THE ROYAL FAMILY, *tending to bring them, individually, personally, and altogether, in their public and private character, into contempt*; to deprive the monarch of the allegiance of his subjects; and to

\* "*Welfare*," this word was substituted in the finished state of the memorial for "*life and honor*," as being more calculated for the proposed end.

† "*Peril*," this word was substituted in the finished memorial for "*treason*," which stood in my first rough draught of the memorial.

*tender the throne and the monarchy objects of hatred and detestation to the nation at large."*

The warm and deep sense of respect and deference in my memorial was accompanied by a pervading sense of truth, which spoke the earnestness of conviction in every line; and I now look upon it, at the end of eight years; with much consolation, so far as it relates to the discharge of my duty at that great public crisis. The prayer concludes thus:—

"Your Memorialist, with profound submission, ventures to entertain a hope, that, on due inquiry, and ascertaining the matters herein set forth, in order to confound the libellers, who boasted of finding favor, by vilifying your august consort, and to abash the calumniators of your Royal Highness, who, with unexampled effrontery, dared to insinuate a thought of paying their court in the circle nearest to the throne, by publicly maintaining a similar atrocious falsehood, your Royal Highness will graciously vouchsafe, as a SIGNAL MARK OF YOUR APPROBATION, and by WAY OF ENCOURAGING OTHERS TO IMITATE HIS ZEAL *in vindicating\* the members of the royal family*, to bestow on him such permanent provision, place, or office, or such public patronage, countenance, and encouragement, in his commercial pursuit, the collection and sale of valuable paintings, as your Royal Highness may; in your wisdom, deign to think best suited to his capacity and station, and to the high and honorable service in which he voluntarily engaged, most becoming the elevated character of the illustrious princess, your august consort, whose libellers and enemies he confronted and exposed, and most worthy of your princely rank, and the dignified generosity of your exalted nature."

\* In the first draught of the memorial, the words were—"in vindicating *your illustrious consort*;" but, in the finished memorial, I substituted—"in vindicating the *Members of the Royal Family*," because it included the Princess in the general interest.

"And this Memorialist, who has not been moved to this \* application by any person or party whatever, nor held communication with any individual in drawing<sup>s</sup> it up, and who *adopted the present humble form of a memorial, only in consequence of the intimation of a nobleman high in your Royal Highness's estimation, will ever pray.*"

\* 'It,' meaning the original manuscript of this memorial from which this copy was written, word for word, by your† Memorialist's son."

"April the twenty-second, in the year of our Lord, one thousand, eight hundred, and twelve."

The memorial being finished, I paused. It was plain to me that Lord Yarmouth did not like, or deem it prudent, to present the bound volume of my vindication of the Princess to her illustrious natural protector. His letter produced a painful conviction in my mind, that he was unwilling to be himself the introducer of the subject at Carlton House. This unwillingness struck me in a particular light, and cost me some very uneasy reflections, although I had no right to complain of his Lordship. But another apparently trivial circumstance bore a strong

\* The word *application* here means my first movement to Lord Yarmouth, which originated altogether in my own mind. This will be seen by my remarking in the conclusion of the same sentence, that I "*adopted the present humble form of a memorial, only in consequence of the intimation of a nobleman high in your Royal Highness's estimation.*"

† The concluding part of the prayer, and this note, mark how careful I was to remove every possible objection, and to give entire satisfaction as to the integrity of my intention. It was of importance, that the fact should be correctly impressed upon His Royal Highness, that I acted and wrote from my own convictions alone, and that I deemed the matter, in its first stage, too delicate to be entrusted to any person but my wife and son, to whom it was communicated in private confidence. The copy of the memorial for the Prince Regent, that for the Right Honorable Spencer Perceval, and that for the Right Honorable Richard Ryder, were written by my son, then in his eighteenth year, from my rough draught. He also wrote two copies for me, as documents for my own keeping.

coincident character. In the bound copy of my printed letters, in vindication of the Princess, I had written at the blank top of the title-page—"From the author, William Carey, to Lord Yarmouth, for his private consideration, London, March, 1820." At the time I wrote the above, I had no intention of pursuing the subject in any other way, but through his Lordship's confidential intimacy with the Prince Regent. But when that nobleman, in his letter to me, declined introducing the book or the subject, it became an object of considerable importance to me to get back the book from him, as I then had not any spare copy. I first sent a person to examine the old book shops in Holborn and elsewhere for one, but, after two days search to no purpose, he gave it up, the book being out of print. An offer of five guineas for a copy produced a second search through London, Westminster, and the Borough, but with as little success. I was, therefore, obliged to write to his Lordship for the book, which he had not returned. In a day or two after, I received it back, and found that he had cut, or caused to be cut, out the top of the title-page, on which I had written his name, and a note of its being sent to him by William Carey, the author. It appeared to me by this and his letter, that he not only had an objection to introducing the vindication, verbally, at court, but that he was anxious not to have it known, elsewhere, that he had been applied to on the subject. As that nobleman could not but know which way the court leaned, I began to conceive, that whatever impunity or favor the conspirators against the Princess had met with, the vindicator of Her Royal Highness, and her vindication, were not likely to be in high favor with the courtly circle round the Prince, although I could never permit myself to entertain a doubt of His Royal Highness's favor, if the book and memorial were once fairly submitted to his impartial judgment.



Although the memorial was finished and dated the twenty-second of April, 1812, the taking copies and writing letters occupied until the fourth of May, and on that day the memorial, and my printed volume, in vindication of the Princess, under cover, addressed to the Prince Regent, were delivered for His Royal Highness, at Colonel Macmahon's house in Pall Mall, next door to Carlton House. They were accompanied by a brief private letter to that gentleman, as the Prince's secretary, respectfully entreating him to submit them to his Royal Highness's gracious consideration, at the first convenient and befitting leisure opportunity.

I made it a point of delicacy to send a duplicate of the memorial, and my volume in vindication of the Princess, under cover, directed for Colonel Macmahon, in order that he might peruse them, and have a satisfactory knowledge of the grounds on which my memorial rested, before he presented it to his Royal Highness.

A duplicate of the memorial, and a volume of my vindication of the Princess, were that day delivered for the Right Honorable Spenser Perceval, chief secretary of state for foreign affairs, at his office in Downing Street. They were accompanied by a letter to that gentleman, in his capacity as a privy counsellor. It contained a distinct view of the growing effect of the impunity and favor of the conspirators upon the public, and requested his solemn consideration of the grounds upon which my memorial rested, shewing, that in whatever public mode the gracious approbation and permanent favor of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent might be conferred, the great principle of publicly discouraging farther conspiracy against Her Royal Highness would be thereby established, and the strong impressions, which continued to spread like an infection upon the minds of the people, be speedily dissipated by a happy re-union

of the highest interests in the state. Of myself, I spoke but as *dust in the balance*, or as *mere brick and mortar*, out of which a great public good might be effected. This letter commenced with an anxious and respectful apology for the necessity of details, which nothing but the state of the public mind, and the deep importance of the subject, tempted me, as a private and humble individual, to venture on Mr. Perceval's consideration. Then followed the parts which are here inserted.

"The idea of presenting a memorial to the Prince Regent did not originate with me; and in adopting it, I have followed the intimation of Lord Yarmouth. Immediately after your declaration of the Princess of Wales's innocence, in parliament, I thought it a favorable opportunity, on most important public grounds, for the Prince to manifest a disposition in favor of Her Royal Highness's vindicator in 1806. I therefore forwarded two copies of my printed letters, in vindication of the Princess, to the nobleman last mentioned, leaving it to him, in his confidential intercourse with her illustrious husband, to bring the matter to a desirable issue, by a spontaneous act of justice, approbation, and favor, flowing from His Royal Highness to me. I have a strong objection, in reason and honorable feeling, to any mode of direct application to His Royal Highness on my side, notwithstanding that the issue so immediately concerns his most important interests. I think that a memorial is calculated to lessen the good effect upon the public mind, which might have been expected from a spontaneous act of His Royal Highness: and I have a repugnance to appearing as a suitor or applicant. But I had a more serious objection, in my apprehension of meeting some unpleasant slight, and perhaps a *refusal*, which, coming from her illustrious husband, the Prince Regent, to a vindicator and defender of Her Royal

Highness against the conspirators in 1806; must place the Princess, if it transpired through your office, in a still more exposed situation than before. So far as any official neglect or slight might touch my own breast, that is of no consequence; but a REFUSAL, transpiring through the agents of a government office, must operate so materially against the safety of Her Royal Highness, as to prove a serious public misfortune.

“ You will have the goodness to pardon me, if, in the present critical state of public opinion, I am anxious to impress upon you, that this memorial rests solely upon public grounds: it covers no crooked policy, no party purpose: it pursues no indirect, no concealed ulterior object. I flatter myself, from your superior discernment, you will be, at once, aware, that although I am an humble and private individual, my memorial involves public principles of delicate and momentous importance, is interwoven with high interests, and may have, under the Prince Regent’s gracious direction, a happy effect upon public opinion. It concerns the honor of almost the highest rank in the royal family; and, in spite of my resolute silence, its issue, if a failure, may become matter for free investigation in the page of history. For, although the memorial is private, and, out of respect to the high parties, I wish and mean it to be so, the general consequences of my voluntary defence and vindication of the Princess of Wales, in 1806, cannot be concealed in 1812, any more than the impunity and favor enjoyed by the conspirators against Her Royal Highness. I am now known as the vindicator of that illustrious personage, though not so publicly as the Douglasses, her accusers, who sought her life; but my fixed determination, in case of a refusal, to persevere in my present respectful silence, cannot prevent its being known whether the vindicator and defender of his illustrious consort, was or

was not honored with approbation, reward, and permanent provision, by the Prince Regent, her husband. If treason and conspiracy be followed by honor and promotion, and that opposition to treason and conspiracy is treated with neglect and disfavor, public opinion will pursue its present alarming course. Believe me, Sir, there is a tongue in *public omissions*; and a voice in *silent acts of commission*, far more eloquent than all the powers of ordinary speech.

“ Pardon me, Sir, if I earnestly solicit your attention to the important distinction, that the establishment of a *public principle of defence and safety for the Princess is the primary object* of my memorial. In whatever visible mode that protective principle is established and promulgated by the gracious act of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, the public good, which I seek, will be accomplished. It is an act of favor, by the Prince Regent only, which can produce this public good. The Princess of Wales, in this particular, can, through me, do nothing conducive to that end. I wish to be explicit, here, for your satisfaction. If Her Royal Highness, herself, were to honor me with her letter of approbation, and some permanent appointment within her gift, the effect would be no more than my *private advantage*, as an individual. So gracious and signal a mark of her favor and grateful feeling would redound highly to her honor; but would not at all contribute to lessen her present danger, nor multiply her means of defence against fresh plots. It would produce no public good, contribute nothing to the high character of the Prince Regent, and have no power to allay the force of the public prejudice, occasioned by the impunity and favor of the conspirators. It could have no effect, whatever, upon public opinion, and be of no advantage to the state. I entreat you, therefore, to notice particularly, that

the utmost emolument and favor, which Her Royal Highness could bestow upon me, must amount to no more than a mere *private act* of honorable feeling. It could not decrease the number of her calumniators, or deter others from forming fresh conspiracies against her, so long as the public impunity and favor of Sir John and Lady Douglas strengthen the opinion that there exists, in the very highest department of the state, a powerful hostility, determined on the destruction of the Princess, and ready to countenance and reward any fresh conspiracy against her life and honor. This odious prejudice, so revolting to the soul of humanity, has been six years gaining ground, and is, now, so widely spread, that it is not less dangerous in its consequences, to the honor of the royal family and public tranquillity, nor less threatening to the safety of Her Royal Highness, because reason, humanity, and justice, must pronounce it to be false.

“ Having dismissed this view, and put the favor of the Princess wholly out of the question, I venture to suggest an opinion that, if the Prince Regent were now to distinguish me, as the vindicator of his illustrious Consort, in 1806, with his letter of approbation, and to confer on me some permanent office worthy of his high character, or patronage in my proper pursuit in life, conferring honor on me, as her Royal Highness’s humble, zealous, and voluntary advocate—the act, in its origin, its motives, and its widely extended effects, would be a PUBLIC ACT of generosity and wisdom in the present state of the public mind. I feel this independently of its honor and advantage to me as a private individual, of which I am fully sensible. In this I distinguish it altogether, from any possible honor or emolument which might be conferred on me by Her Royal Highness, that a patronage and emolument from her, although highly honorable to that exalted lady, and advantageous to me, could not

establish any *public principle*: but the favor of the Prince Regent, in 1812, his honorable approbation, patronage, or promotion of a person in private life, solely on the ground of his having voluntarily vindicated and defended his illustrious Consort in 1806, would establish a *public principle* of defence and vindication of the Princess, and prevent any further conspiracy against the life and honor of her Royal Highness. It would surround her with impregnable bulwarks, by fully proving to the world, that the true road to His Royal Highness's favor is to be gained by a manly exertion of truth and justice in the behalf of his august Consort, and not, as the wicked, the weak, and designing, have unhappily surmised and rumoured, by exertions of a very opposite description.

"I will here close my view: having, I trust, fully proved, that His Royal Highness's favor to me, on public grounds, is of full as much importance to the honor of that august personage and of the royal family, as it is to public opinion. I have showed that it will create and multiply vindicators and defenders for Her Royal Highness, and every other member of the royal family, when wrongfully aspersed and endangered; discourage and prevent further conspiracy; redound to the glory of the Prince Regent, her illustrious husband, and tend to the production of conciliation between the royal pair, and to the re-union of public affection with the highest interests in the state.

"But, while I press so strongly on the public good of the measure, I would be sorry to appear insensible either to the high honor or permanent advantages of His Royal Highness's favor: although the irrefutable fact that my own private advantage is not my primary object, is fully proved by my never having either directly, or indirectly, made myself known to the Princess of Wales, in

1806, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12, up to this moment. I will not press on your upright consideration for the issue. But I trust you will not deem it an undue presumption, or a departure from the tone of deference, which it is my duty and earnest wish to preserve, if I respectfully intimate that approbation, permanent honor, and reward, are, in this case, not sought for as the wages of a hireling for so much work done or performed; nor as a compassionate relief to a mendicant solicitation; nor a transient aid to the momentary emergency of a struggling individual. So far as the issue relates to me, and on the public grounds which I have herein ventured to set forth, I will be proud to receive any public mark of signal approbation, such as the wisdom of his Royal Highness the Prince Regent may be graciously pleased to deem suited to my capacity and liberal station, and worthy the high mind of an illustrious prince, who, whatever unlucky circumstance has existed, or, to the sincere grief of all good minds, may continue to exist in the circle of his domestic affections, will be himself the first, with the distinguished manliness of a noble nature, to acknowledge and applaud the disinterested zeal and courage with which I exposed myself to the malice of the conspirators in 1806. I have not, it is true, had the glory to interpose my body, as a shield, between His Royal Highness and the sabre of an enemy, but I have done that, which the proud conjugal and paternal feeling, and exalted mind, of an honorable husband and father, will appreciate more highly ten thousand times, than the saving of his own life. I interposed to rescue his august consort, the mother of his only beloved child, from the deadly perjuries and venomous pens of the execrable calumniators and conspirators, who hoped to have consigned her to an untimely end upon a scaffold.

“ I earnestly entreat that you will have the good-

ness, with your accustomed sense of candor, to interpret the whole of the preceding letter in its true spirit. I may most justly say, that it is written by a person impressed with a high sense of respect for your character of private worth, as an upright honorable individual. I hope you will, also, do me the favor, wherever I may have expressed myself vaguely, to make a large allowance for the extreme delicacy and difficulty of a subject of so much deep importance, in all its relations and future tendencies. The circumstance of my not being in the habit of addressing myself to persons in high official station, and my inexperience in customary forms, have added much to my embarrassments. I have been, also, at a loss how to express myself with becoming humility and the deep respect of a British subject, in venturing to advert to matters concerning the councils of the Prince Regent, in whose happiness, wise direction, and unimpaired dignity, we have all an unalterable interest. I have forborne, out of anxious respect, to reveal the whole of my strong impressions; and in whatever relates to the Princess of Wales in this communication, however I may have shaped my language, I have written with a sense of public duty, meaning that the whole of the proceedings are the acts of His Royal Highness's counsellors; and, by consequence, that the unspotted honor and exalted character of the Prince are no way concerned in them. I would be understood necessarily in every passage wherever the possibility of a blame or censure is either directly implied or apparent, to mean that the counsellors of His Royal Highness are alone, and wholly, responsible for the matter complained of or supposed to be condemned."

I had a great reliance upon Mr. Perceval, from his conscientious character; and I waited with some anxiety the result of the letter, from which the



above is extracted, and which, with a copy of my memorial to the Prince Regent, and a copy of my printed letters, were delivered for him at his office on the 4th day of May (1812). On the next day an official communication was delivered at my house, by a messenger from the secretary for foreign affairs, the Right Honorable Mr. Spenser Perceval. This brief, but important document, was dated May the 5th, 1812, Downing Street, directed "W. Carey, Esq." and signed by his secretary, "A. Rosenhagen;" It identified the fact of my having sent in a memorial, with what Mr. Perceval termed "*claims to remuneration*," as the author of my published letters, under the signature of "*Humanitas*," in defence of the Princess of Wales. It acquainted me that Mr. Perceval could not hold out any prospect of his being able to serve me as the author; and that the book received with my letter was returned, with his answer.

The number of papers which issue daily from the public office of the Secretary of State creates a necessity for their being as brief as possible. Mr. Perceval's communication to me was brevity itself: and I could not expect that gentleman, or Mr. Rosenhagen for him, to touch even in detail upon my public objects: but it contained an official evidence of the grounds upon which my memorial rested; and the terms in which it was couched impressed me with a strong opinion that the Right Honorable Secretary's *inability* did not arise from any wish to discourage a vindicator, or a vindication, of the Princess of Wales; but that he was, himself, overruled by some person or persons in the cabinet. It would have been easy for him to have pretended to me that he could not recommend my memorial to the Prince Regent, by affecting to think its grounds too slight, or by answering vaguely, as if he saw something objectionable in the terms of my memorial, or its informality. I, therefore,

considered his communication by no means dissatisfactory. He did not intimate that he would not recommend my object: and the kindness of his speedy reply seemed rather the manifestation of a wish to prevent my admitting of any hope that might or must end in disappointment, than a refusal to advise with the Prince Regent upon the subject and prayer of my memorial.

In the evening of the next day, a servant in the Prince Regent's livery delivered a large packet, directed "W. Carey, Esq. No. 35, Mary-le-bone Street, Piccadilly." It was sealed in two places, and the well-known motto, "Ich Dien," drew my eye to the impressions, which bore the Prince of Wales's arms. On opening this communication, it contained the memorial, which had been delivered at Colonel Macmahon's house, the day but one before, addressed for His Royal Highness the Prince Regent. The bound printed octavo volume of my Letters in defence of the Princess, his illustrious Consort, which had, at the same time, been delivered with the memorial at Colonel Macmahon's, was under the same cover, with a polite letter from Major-General TURNER, dated "Carlton House, May the 6th, 1812." He presented his compliments to me, and informed me, in consequence of my letter to Mr. Mc. Mahon (the spelling of the name in Major-General Turner's official), that the *regular channel* for the enclosed memorial to the Prince Regent being through the Secretary of State for the Home Department, the Right Honorable Richard Ryder, it was therefore returned, with "*the accompanying document*," (my bound volume) to enable me to address it through the proper office.

Major-General Turner's letter being dated from Carlton House, and his packet being sealed with the Prince of Wales's arms, I was satisfied that Colonel Macmahon had either transmitted my memorial and bound volume of printed letters to

Carlton House, or had delivered them there with due form himself. The favorable promptitude with which they were sent in to the Prince, and the rapidity with which they were sent out, formed a striking contrast. My letter to Colonel Macmahon, which Major-General Turner referred to in his, had put the Colonel in full possession of the subject of my memorial, and of the public grounds on which it rested. I had also sent him a bound volume of my printed letters, with a copy of the memorial, that he might not have to present a paper to his royal master, with the contents of which he was himself unacquainted. I wished to give him an opportunity of returning it to me for amendment, if he had seen any thing defective in the form, or not sufficiently expressive of that warm and guarded feeling of affectionate and humble duty, with which, even when venturing to deliver the boldest truths, a British subject ought ever to approach that august personage.

It was plain to me, that Colonel Macmahon deemed my memorial unobjectionable in form and wording, and that the subject was fitted for the Prince Regent's private consideration. By transmitting it and my printed letters to Carlton House, or by delivering them there himself, he proved his conviction that he was the regular and proper channel through which they were to be conveyed to the presence chamber. Lord Yarmouth had also expressly stated in his letter to me, that Colonel Macmahon, His Royal Highness's Secretary, is *the channel* through which *such memorials* pass. In transmitting or delivering my memorial and book, Colonel Macmahon had not acted blindly, or without all the necessary means of forming a mature judgment; and from having so long held the distinguished place of confidential secretary to His Royal Highness, he was not only a competent authority, but the very best judge of what was or

was not fit and duly entitled to be delivered to the Prince. I had some reason, therefore, to feel happy, from my having overcome no mean difficulty. The subject of my memorial comprehended a variety of delicate and jealous public interests, and required many deep and arduous combinations of feeling, reflection, and knowledge of human nature. The Right Honorable Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Spenser Perceval, had read it without objection; and, through the hands of Colonel Macmahon, it had passed the fiery ordeal of official inspection within the Prince Regent's court.

But although my memorial and document had so fortunately found their way into Carlton House, it was evident that an adverse influence had there interposed. The spirit of hostility to the Princess, with apparent civility, and by way of kindly putting me into the right course, had speedily ejected them. Contrary to the opinion of Lord Yarmouth, and of Colonel Macmahon, after they had passed through the proper channel, they were sent out again; and the Vindicator of Her Royal Highness, and the Vindication, were dismissed, to travel circuitously again to Carlton House, through all the cold forms and apathetic delays of one of the government offices.

The evil advisers, the enemies of the Princess, had not lost the opportunity. I was convinced that the question of conjugal pride and paternal feeling was not to be determined by the fire-side sympathies and family dignity of the Prince. In what related to the high and delicate sense of honor, and the warm kindred affections only, it was a private question, which so far belonged to His Royal Highness, and called for his own just and high-minded judgment. But I found that it was to be made wholly a matter of *state* decision, whether a vindicator of his illustrious consort's honor, and a defender of her life, when both were attacked and endangered, was

to be received and honored with approbation and favor, as one who had acted meritoriously, or rejected and sent away, as an offender and criminal who had done wrong. The public consequences which must flow from the determination in Carlton House, formed the public character of the question. A favorable decision by the Prince must have discouraged further conspiracies against the Princess; and it was to be feared that an unfavorable resolution by his Royal Highness, if made public, must have operated as a signal for fresh attempts upon her life.

It was a maxim of the old French government, that all favors were to be conferred by the King in person, or in his name, so as that all the gratitude and honor should redound to him; but where a refusal was to be given, the ministers acted, and took all the discredit and discontent to themselves. The practice is more necessary in a free government, where public opinion is, or ought to be, the main spring of the state movements; and where the interests of the people require that the King should be looked up to with affection as a common good, and above all wrong-doing; and his ministers punished with impeachment and the axe, when fairly and legally tried and found guilty of heavy crimes against the nation. My memorial was sent from Carlton House to the Secretary of State's office; and, being accustomed to judge of men by the current of their actions, and not by smooth speeches, I correctly anticipated the issue.

I deemed it, however, my duty, on public grounds, to write a final letter to the Right Honorable Spencer Perceval, before the official state determination could take place; and to unveil realities as to the direction of public opinion relative to the impunity and favor enjoyed by the conspirators against the Princess of Wales, in 1806. Having, in the introduction adverted to what had just occurred at

Carlton House, and the *inability* mentioned in his letter by *Mr. A. Rosenhagen*, his secretary, I proceeded; and the following extract contains the most important part of this letter. "I am persuaded you cannot but view the official result of my memorial as a public act, which, if favorable to the principle of vindicating the Princess of Wales, must be attended with most salutary public consequences. I am grieved to say, that there still exists an absolute necessity for the Prince Regent's counsellors adopting some measure to prevent a mischief to Her Royal Highness, for, from the following facts, you will at once see that at present the life of the Princess is in extreme and hourly danger.

"But before I enter on this brief statement, I entreat you will believe me to be most deeply concerned for the necessity of discharging this painful duty. Have the goodness to remember that I did not make the *facts* which I am about to notice, and that I do not advert to them in the spirit of party, as matter of reproach, and for selfish purposes, but with an humble hope of contributing to avert their dangerous public consequences. In all that follows, wherever I am obliged to mention the Prince Regent, I shall take that liberty, with a full sense of its presumption, and with all due honor to his name and exalted station. I shall, all through my remarks, touch upon whatever concerns that illustrious personage in the spirit of the British constitution, with a conviction, that, as the representative of the King, he can *do no wrong*; that his character is above all reflection; and that his advisers alone are responsible for the acts which I am about to bring under consideration.

"On the sixth of February, last year, 1811, His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales was publicly and solemnly installed at Carlton House, in the high office of Prince Regent of the United Empire, in the presence of the great officers of state, the public dignitaries, and privy counsellors.

“ In the oath, which, according to the recent act of parliament, His Royal Highness took, in the presence of the *Archbishop of Canterbury*, the *Lord Chancellor*, the *Archbishop of York*, and all those great officers of state, public dignitaries, and privy counsellors, the Prince Regent swore to the following duties. ‘ I will in all things, to the utmost of my power and ability, consult and maintain the safety, honor, and dignity of His Majesty, and the welfare of his people—so HELP ME, GOD.’ This oath was administered by the Lord Privy Seal, and audibly sworn in the presence of God and of the world.”

“ The whole of this splendid ceremony, and the form of this *solemn oath*, were recorded in the *Gazette*, and published in all the periodical journals. Pardon me, Sir, if from a deep and painful sense of duty to God, the King, and my country, I am obliged to adjure you, by your humanity as a man, your honor as a gentleman, your faith as a believing Christian, and your oath as a sworn privy-counselor, to compare the momentous public obligations imposed by the above solemn oath, with the following notice, published among the list of promotions, in a succeeding number of the *Gazette*, not quite four months after the installation of the Prince Regent.

“ But, first, I respectfully remind you, that the instalment of the Prince Regent, placed in His Royal Highness’s hands, or rather in the hands of his sworn advisers, who are responsible for all the measures of his government, the administration of the United Empire, with a power to encourage, reward, and promote those persons and practices that he approved of, and deemed fit to encourage; and also with a power to condemn and punish those persons and practices, that were disapproved of, and held in dislike and abhorrence.

“ Having considered this power, and how far its sworn obligations were framed and intended to dis-

courage crime, afford safeguard to His Majesty's subjects, and encourage and reward merit, I beg of you to read what follows from the Gazette.

" June the 4th, 1811.—SIR JOHN DOUGLAS, KNT. of the *Royal Marines*,\* to be MAJOR-GENERAL in the army."

" I need not, Sir, inform you, who have so recently borne testimony in parliament to the *innocence* of the Princess of Wales, that the SIR JOHN DOUGLAS, KNT. of the *Royal Marines*, who is thus publicly approved of, encouraged, honored, rewarded, and promoted, is the *perjured traitor*, who, with his equally *infamous wife*, *Lady Charlotte Douglas*, had attempted to bring the Prince Regent's illustrious consort to an untimely and ignominious death on the scaffold, by swearing a false and infamous charge of adultery, pregnancy, and the delivery of a male child, against Her Royal Highness. The fact of pregnancy alone, if proved, in her unhappy and enforced state of long separation from her illustrious husband, must have amounted to treason, and have subjected the accused to the capital punishment of death by the hands of the public executioner.

" This infamous conspirator was guilty of a crime, which the law of England has pronounced a treason of the most flagitious atrocity: and you well know, Sir, that impunity is the nurse of crime. *Montesquieu* most strongly states—' If we inquire into the causes of all human corruptions, we shall find that they proceed from the impunity of crimes.' (The Spirit of Laws, vol. 2; p. 91.) The guilt of crimes assumes a deeper die in proportion to the evils which they aim to inflict upon society; and this criminal, and his female accomplice, not only conspired against a princess of the House of Brunswick, the consort of the heir to the throne, and the

\* There were a number of other officers promoted at the same time: they are in the same list; and in the Gazette, the notice, " To be Major-Generals," is printed at the bottom.



mother of our future queen, but his conspiracy had a tendency to involve England in all the bloody consequences of a disputed succession. This is not my opinion alone: it was the opinion of Lord Thurlow in 1805 and 6, and obtained a weight and currency in the highest circles. I may justly, therefore, affirm, that the guilt of *this traitor, Sir John Douglas*, was of the greatest atrocity, and that he was the most enormous criminal that has offended against the laws of God and his country, during a century before.

“Yet not only has this object of public horror and detestation been permitted by a culpable neglect, or a criminal connivance, to escape with impunity; but, among the very first acts of the Prince Regent’s government, the offender has been brought, by His Royal Highness’s counsellors, before the people of England, and gazetted to the world as an object of His Royal Highness’s special countenance and favor. He has not only been rewarded with the annual pay of a major-general for the remainder of his life, but he has received all the distinctions of that rank, to the shame and humiliation of the brave officers among whom he was introduced, and to the disgrace and discouragement of that honorable service.

“I do not ask whether the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Lord Chancellor, or the Archbishop of York, who were all present, when the Prince Regent took the solemn oath of installation, were also among the sworn counsellors, who are responsible for having advised this disgraceful and culpable measure. But, with a due and sincere respect for those high persons, I trust, on full consideration, you will agree with me, that it would have been no derogation from their eminent character, nor violation of their important sworn duties, if they had most strenuously advised against it.

“I do not assert nor insinuate that those honors

and emoluments, conferred upon this conspirator, were intended to operate as a *bounty*, in exciting others to conspire against the life of Her Royal Highness; but, in my soul and conscience, I am impressed with a melancholy apprehension, that they will have that effect.

“ Contrast this encouragement and reward given to the conspirator, with the coldness, discouragement and disfavor already shown to the *presented memorial* of her *vindicator*; and then answer—are not the life and good name of the Princess in greater jeopardy than ever? Will it not now be thought, that a conspiracy against the Princess is the road to court favor, and that the exertion of truth and manliness in her defence and vindication is the path to disfavor and disgrace? You have, through me, as her vindicator, an opportunity of discouraging conspiracy, and promoting the honor of His Royal Highness: and believe me, if His Royal Highness’s counsellors persist in their unhappy course, I much fear that it will lead to interminable public evil, and rouse every drop of honest blood in the empire against their measures.

“ I have, here, ventured to express myself without reserve, but with the best intentions, and a high respect for you. But I press most earnestly home to your conscience the following fact. When the iniquitous fabrication of this conspirator, Sir John Douglas, was communicated to Lord Thurlow, in 1805 and 6, his lordship stated that, ‘ unless its falsehood were *fully* and *fairly* exposed, it might endanger the tranquillity of the state, and afford some wicked pretence for a *disputed succession to the throne*.’

“ The honors and emoluments so publicly conferred on the chief fabricator of that infamous treason, are calculated to make him persist in asserting its truth; to dishonor the Princess of Wales, and encourage fresh conspirators against her life. I

need hardly add that it is also calculated to realise the danger apprehended by Lord Thurlow; to afford a wicked pretence for setting up a false claim against the Princess Charlotte, and exposing England to the miseries of a civil war. Again, you will excuse me for urging it: but you have no choice left to escape those dangers. The *Vindicator* ought, on grounds of public necessity, to be honored, and the conspirator disgraced."

The above letter was forwarded to Mr. Perceval's office on the 8th of May, 1812. On the next day I received a brief official letter from Mr. Perceval, dated Downing-street, 9th May, 1812, directed and signed as the preceding from him: it merely acknowledged the receipt of my letter, and added, the subject would receive an early attention. On the 11th, in the morning, pursuant to Major-General Turner's direction, I forwarded the memorial, addressed for the Prince Regent, and two bound volumes of my letters, in vindication of the Princess of Wales, to the office of the Right Honorable Richard Ryder, Secretary of State for the Home Department. They were accompanied by a letter to that gentleman on the subject of my memorial, and the public grounds on which it rested, with a copy of the memorial for his own perusal. I was at a loss, in writing to that gentleman, having no knowledge whatever of his private or public character, or of the part which he had taken in the affairs of the Princess of Wales; but I relied upon it that my two letters to Mr. Perceval would come under his eye in the privy council.

On that day, in the evening, Mr. Perceval was assassinated by John Bellingham. This dreadful crime suspended all business in the cabinet, and the hopes which I had founded on that statesman's private integrity and conscientious zeal in behalf of Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales vanished.

On the twentieth of May, 1812, a messenger from the secretary of state for the home department delivered a letter, dated "Whitehall, 20th May, 1812," and directed "William Carey, Esq. 35, Mary-le-bone Street, Piccadilly." It was from *Mr. Secretary Ryder*, and signed by his secretary, "*J. Beckett.*" The contents informed me my *petition* to His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, *praying to be appointed to some situation, had been laid before His Royal Highness, and that he had not been pleased to signify any commands thereupon.*

My memorial was here misnamed a *petition*, and its public grounds not mentioned; but this official paper is a document, which identifies the fact, that Mr. Secretary Ryder approved of the style, form, and wording of my memorial, so far as to its being sufficiently expressive of my humble duty to the Prince Regent, or he would not have presented it to His Royal Highness. Colonel Macmahon, by presenting it at Carlton House, had proved before, that it was unobjectionable in wording and form. This official letter, also, establishes the fact, that I had applied to the Prince Regent, on public grounds, in 1812, as the vindicator of his illustrious consort, for an appointment, in token of his royal approbation, *within twelve months after the promotion of the chief conspirator, Douglas, had been gazetted.* Having seen a communication from the King to a gentleman some time before, I had learned from him that the words—"was not pleased to signify any commands thereupon," were an official mode of dismissing a memorialist, by signifying that nothing further would be done on his application then before the cabinet.

I thought, at that moment, how different the advisers of the Prince Regent had treated Sir John Douglas, the chief conspirator against his illustrious consort; and I could not help asking some

questions in my own mind—did that infamous conspirator send in a memorial to the Prince Regent? and did he set forth to His Royal Highness's advisers, as the merits upon which he grounded his claim, that he had conspired against the life and honor of the Prince Regent's illustrious consort? Or were his merits spontaneously approved of and rewarded by these advisers, (who have ransacked in Italy, Greece, Asia, and Africa, for hired witnesses against the Queen), without his having sent in a memorial?

As the two volumes of my printed letters had not been returned by Mr. Secretary Ryder, I wrote to him on the 29th of May, 1812, for them. On the next day a messenger from the secretary of state's office delivered a packet, containing my two books, and a letter dated "*Whitehall*, 30th of May, 1812," signed "*J. Beckett*," and addressed as the preceding. It informed me, that he was directed by Mr. Secretary Ryder to acquaint me, that *the subject matter of my memorial* had been under the consideration of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, who had been ADVISED that, under the circumstances of the case, RELIEF could not be given. The letter concluded with mentioning, that Mr. Beckett returned with it the *books* forwarded with *my memorial*.

There was something in the tenor of this letter of the thirtieth of May, 1812, which contradicted that of the twentieth preceding. According to that of the twentieth, my memorial, miscalled my petition, had been laid before His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, and he had not signified any commands thereupon; that is, dismissed it without saying any thing upon it: and what is still more important, he had, according to that letter, *not been advised against it*. So far the decision passed as the *sole act of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent*; and Mr. Secretary Ryder, considering it

final, was pleased to communicate the same to me officially by his secretary, Mr. Beckett.

I have been informed that it is not customary for the secretaries of state to communicate, or report progress, by official letters, from week to week, to those who have sent in memorials. Their time is too precious, and the number of memorialists too many, to admit of their adopting any other general rule of practice, but that of an official letter to each, notifying the \* final decision on his particular memorial. I believe this statement to be correct, and am warranted in my opinion, that Mr. Secretary Ryder's first official letter, that of the twentieth of May, 1812, was sent to me by that gentleman's order, as a final decision on my memorial, then in his office. But, in that official communication, the Prince Regent is, himself, in effect, though not in words, stated to have passed my memorial by with the negative decision, which it conveys; and, in point of fact, His Royal Highness, *her natural protector*, is, himself, therein represented in the tenor, under all the circumstances of my case, as having met the memorial of his illustrious consort's vindicator with silent disfavor, rejection, and refusal, only a few months after the Gazette had proclaimed the honor and promotion of the chief conspirator, Sir John Douglas. But it appears that, afterwards, it was deemed most justly necessary to take the responsibility of the refusal from that illustrious personage; to refer it to the advisers, and to imply also (in direct contradiction of the first letter) that the Prince had not seen my *memorial*, but that the "*subject matter*" of it, only, had been communicated to him; that he had not come to any determination himself, on the important question, whether he ought or ought

\* But not precluding him from sending in an amended memorial, with additional facts, or on different and stronger grounds.

not to confer approbation, favor, and permanent reward on the vindicator of his august consort; but that he had been ADVISED to refuse me not only the approbation, honor, and permanent reward for the honorable service set forth in my memorial, but to send me a second decision, implying, in contradiction of the "praying to be appointed to a situation" in the first official letter, that I had memorialized for *relief*, as if I were a person in distress, and that relief could not be given.

It appears, therefore, that my humble memorial in May, 1812, had the honor to be twice under consideration in the privy council, and that His Royal Highness's advisers deemed it fitting, not only to refuse, in my person, a sanction to the principle of defending and vindicating his illustrious consort, but that it would be most conducive to the dignity of the Prince Regent for them to dismiss me in a contemptuous and humiliating manner, equally aspersive of my services, my circumstances, and my object.

But this attempt to throw out of sight the *real grounds* of my memorial is defeated. Mr. Perceval's first letter, signed "A. Rosenhagen," states that it was "*remuneration*" for the letters of "*Humanitas*," written in defence of Her Royal Highness, which I sought: and, if the vindicator of the Princess of Wales had really stood in need of relief, and applied for it, would it have redounded to the honor of her illustrious consort's counsellors to have advised a refusal?

As to the words, "*under the circumstances of the case*," they are a statesman's general expedient, and may be variously construed: either that I had vindicated a *guilty person*, or that the advisers, having *gazetted* the chief conspirator on the fourth of June, 1811, they could not, with any consistency, honor with approbation and promotion Her

Royal Highness's vindicator, on the thirtieth of May, 1812.

Thus, whatever was in favor of the Princess was discountenanced, while her enemies, and those who had sought her life, were in favor. It was considered, by the advisers of her august husband, to be wise, just, honorable, and conducive to his dignity, to repel me with coldness, disfavor, and insult, as one who had been guilty of having vindicated Her Royal Highness. Yet they could not but know, that an approbation of the vindicator must have been a *condemnation* of the conspirators and conspiracy, and that a disapprobation of my conduct must imply an approbation of the conspirators. The decision, either way, on my memorial, was a decision for or against the great, *public principle of vindicating the Princess*, and must have had a *prospective effect*; but whether I was repelled and discountenanced, with a view to impending or *prospective* hostilities against the Princess, is an important question for history.

Certain it is, that in the ensuing February, a public rumor of their intentions to renew their guilty machinations against the Princess was very prevalent in the best informed circles. Mr. Whitbread, in March, 1813, gave notice in the House of Commons of the Princess of Wales's having received information, that these malignant miscreants, notwithstanding their notorious infamy, were again under examination, "*with the sanction*" of a *great law authority*; who had, himself, solemnly pronounced upon the innocence of the Princess, and the falsehood of their charges, in the year 1807. These preparatory fabrications spread an alarm of some dark project. Thus encouraged by impunity and favor, on the eighteenth of March, 1813, not two years after the chief conspirator had received his high military promotion, they surpassed the monstrous wickedness and



effrontery of their first attempt, by sending in a petition to Parliament, offering to re-swear the whole of the infamous charges which they had deposed against Her Royal Highness in 1806. To this audacity they stated in their petition they were "*advised*;" and whether their advisers were or were not those who advised the Prince Regent to reject my memorial in 1812, to gazette the chief conspirator, Sir John Douglas, in 1811, as an object of special favor and promotion, and who lavished from twenty to thirty thousand pounds of the public taxes in buying witnesses on the continent to dethrone and degrade the Queen of England, in 1820, I leave to posterity to decide. Let it be well understood I offer no doubt upon the question.

In 1813, when this second conspiracy broke out, the Princess Charlotte had just entered her eighteenth year, was in the bloom of her beauty, and endued with all that royal pride, native sensibility, and filial love, which must have shrunk in agony at the barbarous wrongs and cruelties heaped upon her beloved parent, and at the deep affliction of such a foul blot upon her own birth and name. But those desperate criminals were again favored with IMPUNITY. Mr. Whitbread's intended motion, to prosecute the two principals in this treasonable plot, was hushed up; and the inveterate spirit kept alive, in full hope and vigor, for the desperate attempt of the green bag conspiracy of 1820.

The following copies of my correspondence with the ministers in 1813, will show that there existed *somewhere* a resolute design to *withhold every verbal or written approbation of the principle of defending and vindicating the Princess*. It is not easy to guess at, nor would it be safe to name the parties; but when we see this inveterate and malignant hostility displayed in 1813, by those ADVISERS, who had the enormous power and influence of the

crown at their disposal, it is utterly impossible to avoid connecting that hostile spirit with the continued proceedings of the conspirators, during the whole of the Princess of Wales's travels, until their plans were ripe for accomplishment in 1820. When threats and bribes failed to move her noble spirit, the green bags were sent down to parliament, to wind up the long-projected catastrophe, by the dethronement, degradation, and banishment of the Queen of England.



35, Mary-le-bone Street, Piccadilly, London,  
March 22nd, 1813.

My Lord,

I have the honor to present, for your lordship's examination, the volume which accompanies this, entitled "**ATROCIOUS ACCUSATION**," being a copy of the letters which I wrote, and caused to be published in July and August, 1806, when calumny was at its height, and threats were thrown out against all who ventured to attempt the vindication of Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales.

I am ready, if required, to prove, by my own oath, and the oaths of two of my family, that I voluntarily undertook Her Royal Highness's vindication without any advice or instigation, solely through a sense of justice and humanity; that I had no expectation or view of advantage in so doing; that I have never received any; that I ever considered myself about to injure my own interests by undertaking her vindication; that I do not now make this application from any recent circumstances, as I \* *first made myself* known to Mr. Percival as *Her Royal Highness's* vindicator last year, immediately after his open acknowledgment of her inno-

\* The first in the cabinet—Lord Yarmouth was out.

cence in parliament; and that *to this hour I have never made myself known to Her Royal Highness as her vindicator*. I protest most solemnly that I am not moved to this present application by any person or party, but solely through a sense of duty to my own family, and to His Royal Highness the Prince Regent; and that I apply, without communicating my intention to any person but Elizabeth Carey, my wife.

I do myself the honor to accompany this with a *copy of my memorial to His Royal Highness the Prince Regent for your perusal*. I shall not trespass upon your good sense, by adverting to *the important considerations* which are *connected with the result of this application*. The accusers of Her Royal Highness are now publicly known and reprobated; and I feel myself bound to claim the honor from your lordship, and every *true friend of the royal family*, which belongs to the individual who first had the loyalty and manliness to step from the *calm of private life* for the purpose of vindicating so august a branch of the royal family. Although *legal formality may have prevented the prosecution of her accusers*, I flatter myself that your lordship will feel *no possible reason can exist for passing over the dutious and respectful application of her voluntary vindicator, without favor, and with neglect*.

To prevent this application from being mistaken for a claim of necessity, I beg leave to state, that I am a resident housekeeper, that I have a property of several thousand pounds embarked in the purchase and sale of works of art, and that I have expended upwards of two thousand pounds in ready money additions to my collection within the last two years, which I can prove, if required, by a reference to my banker, and other persons of the first respectability in London.

I entreat of your lordship, *as a member of the council* of the \* twenty-second of April, 1807, to do me the favor to lay my humble memorial before

\* This council was graciously instituted by the late King, in his paternal love for his injured daughter-in-law, to counteract the efforts of those near his royal person, who endeavoured to prevent his public reception of Her Royal Highness at court and in his family. The Lord Chancellor (Eldon), Lord President (Camden), Lord Privy Seal (Westmoreland), the Duke of Portland, the Earl of Chatham, the Earl Bathurst, Viscount Castlereagh, Lord Mulgrave, Mr. Secretary Canning, and Lord Hawkesbury, were present. Their official report to the King triumphantly confirmed, on this SECOND TRIAL, the acquittal of Her Royal Highness by the four lords of the *secret commission* in 1806, of the long trumpeted charge, so positively and circumstantially sworn against her by the Douglas conspirators, and the accomplices whom they had suborned. Besides this further proof of the treason and perjury of these conspirators, the report of the council officially established the additional falsehood and perjury of the suborned menials, who had sworn to some distinct calumnies, to imply a want of guarded circumspection in the manner of the Princess. Lord Viscount Castlereagh, and the eight other noble Lords, with Mr. Canning, in their report declared the matter of these distinct calumnies to be "*satisfactorily contradicted*," and "*undeserving of credit*." They finally advised His Majesty, with *as little delay as possible*, to receive the Princess in a manner due to her rank and station in his court and family, and thus removed every shadow of charge against the Princess, proved, by the concurring solemn testimony of *two administrations*, the unparalleled wrongs of Her Royal Highness, and afforded and established by a second official decision, the treasonable perjury and monstrous villainy of the two chief conspirators, and their suborned accomplices. It is to be observed, that the members of the secret commission, in 1806, and those of the council of the twenty-second of April, 1807, acted under their oath of office as His Majesty's privy counsellors; and their official reports to the King are their sworn evidences of the foul conspiracy of Sir John and Lady Douglas against the life and honor of the Princess of Wales. Yet not only were these enormous criminals permitted to escape with impunity, but they were not disgraced. Lady Douglas found notice and favor, and Sir John, instead of having had his military coat torn from his back, and being dismissed from the honorable service which he had so shamefully degraded, became an object of high military promotion. The menial accomplices also escaped unpunished.

His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, with a profound expression of my most inviolable duty and respect, and to obtain for me the favor of an early answer.

I have the honor to be your lordship's very respectful and obedient servant,

Wm. CAREY.

To Lord Viscount Castlereagh,  
Downing Street.

*(Copy of the Memorial delivered with the foregoing Letter, and the Two Books of the "Atrocious Accusation.")*

To His Royal Highness, George-Augustus-Frederic,  
Regent of the United Kingdom.

The memorial of William Carey, of No. 35, Mary-le-bone Street, Piccadilly, London; humbly sheweth—

That, in July and August, 1806, when a *false and atrocious accusation* was brought against your Royal Highness's illustrious consort, containing a charge, which, if substantiated, *must have affected her life*, your memorialist voluntarily, and without hope of reward or advantage to himself, in opposition to threats, and probable injury to his personal interests, and under the pressure of ill health and debility, wrote, and caused to be printed and published in the Bristol Mercury, the Blackburn Mail, and other newspapers, a *series of letters, in VINDICATION OF HER ROYAL HIGHNESS'S CHARACTER*, and to shew her *INNOCENCE* to the world; of which letters, *the volume, entitled "ATROCIOUS ACCUSATION,"* accompanying this, is an original copy, re-published in London and Bristol, in Autumn, 1806.

And your memorialist humbly prays that your Royal Highness will graciously be pleased to take the aforesaid expression of *zealous loyalty* in be-

half of so distinguished a branch of the royal family into consideration; and he humbly hopes, that if your Royal Highness approves of his conduct, you will deign to SIGNIFY YOUR APPROBATION THEREON, in whatever manner your wisdom may deem best suited to convey to the present time and posterity, a salutary proof that the voluntary vindicator of your illustrious consort found permanent protection and favor in your royal sight.

And your humble memorialist will ever pray.

March 22nd, 1813.

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### Lord Castlereagh's reply.

MR. WOOD is directed by Lord Castlereagh to return the inclosed to Mr. Carey, his lordship not being the proper channel through which Mr. Carey's memorial should be laid before His Royal Highness the Prince Regent.

St. James's Square, March 25th, 1813,  
Mr. William Carey.

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The two bound copies of my letters, termed "Atrocious Accusation," and the memorial intended for His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, were returned for me, with the above, by a messenger, who delivered them at my house. The memorial and two books were then duly forwarded to Lord Sidmouth, with the following letter to his lordship.

My Lord,

I entreat that, in your official character, you will have the goodness to lay before His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, with an expression of my humble respect, the memorial, and volume called "ATROCIOUS ACCUSATION," which accompanies it, directed for his Royal Highness. I have

the honor to inform you that I am ready, if called upon, to confirm, upon oath, the declaration or *form of deposition*,\* marked No. 2, which I deemed it necessary to draw up for your lordship's perusal with this letter. I shall, with pleasure, undergo any examination, or give every explanation, touching the matters therein set forth, which His Royal Highness may be pleased to order; or which your lordship may deem necessary to substantiate the main facts; that in 1806, when the HONOR and LIFE of his AUGUST CONSORT were attacked by a FALSE ACCUSATION, I voluntarily, without hope of reward or personal advantage, and under an engagement to meet any prosecution which might be commenced against the printers and publishers, wrote, and caused to be printed in her defence and vindication, the letters signed "C—— Humanitas," of which the pamphlet called "ATROCIOUS ACCUSATION" is a copy, printed in 1806: that in doing so, I acted solely from motives of conscience, humanity, and public duty, wholly free from any party bias, holding then and now all faction in abhorrence; that I was then an *entire stranger to Her Royal Highness*; that *I am now the same*; that I have never since, in the course of nearly six† years, *either directly or indirectly, taken any steps to make myself known to her*, and that, in proof of my being unconscious of a party feeling, I have with as earnest an impartiality, under a feigned signature, in another pamphlet, since vindicated the conduct of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, in an instance‡ where I considered it to be made a subject of most unmerited obloquy. When your lordship has satisfied yourself of these facts, I have no doubt but, as an honest and faithful

\* This intended form of deposition, is the document immediately after this letter, and marked No. 2.

† Nearly seven.

‡ Not at all connected with the "*delicate investigation*" of 1806, or the Princess, his illustrious consort.

counsellor of your king, you will take also *other relative facts into your consideration*, as *they bear singly and altogether upon PUBLIC OPINION*, liable to the *misapprehension of the good*, and the *malignant interpretation of the designing*. Every man knows that the *FALSE ACCUSERS of Her Royal Highness*, with the *printers and publishers who libelled her*, escaped *unprosecuted and unpunished*: it is as notorious that a printer and publisher have been recently prosecuted and punished for a libel upon His Royal Highness. The vindicator of His Royal Highness's illustrious consort is now made known to you, and the other distinguished persons, who have the honor to form his council. I am pointed out and known to be her vindicator publicly. Your wisdom will discern *whether there can be any middle point of decision upon my conduct*, between *honorable approbation and public condemnation*; and I am confident that you will distinguish clearly how far it lies within the power and the duty of that high personage's counsellors to mark their opinion of my conduct, without interfering with his high pleasure, or committing the opinion of their royal master. I will not insult your upright mind by any solicitation of your voice and interest. If I had done a wrong you would be the last person in England to whom I would apply myself, for I am well aware that, in such a case, all solicitation would be fruitless. If, *in the rectitude of your heart*, you admit that *I discharged the duty of an honest man*, and a *zealous, good subject*, your sense, of rectitude of what is due to your own feelings and character, TO PUBLIC EXAMPLE and PUBLIC OPINION, TO YOUR PRINCE and THE ROYAL FAMILY, *will determine your conduct to me*. I am not, my lord, so help me God, I am not an instrument of faction in this application; and although I may be in error, yet I cannot help thinking that *a due notice of*



*Her Royal Highness's vindicator*, on the part of administration, would, *at this crisis*, have a *salutary effect upon the public*. My own feelings and interests are out of this view of the question, as much as when I formerly wrote the letters signed "C—— Humanitas." I may be allowed, however, to declare, although it might be deemed presumptuous in me to attempt to shape or limit his high pleasure, that if *His Royal Highness would graciously deign to honor me with a VERBAL OR WRITTEN APPROBATION of THE PRINCIPLE upon which I vindicated his illustrious consort, that testimonial alone would, in itself, be a proud reward, and an IMPORTANT RESULT to my humble efforts in behalf of Her Royal Highness*. Believe me, my lord, I would never disgrace it. It would be equally contrary to my intentions, and my unfeigned respect for your lordship, to trespass upon you by *repeated communications*. I, therefore, entreat of your lordship to have the goodness, if in your power, to obtain for me the favor of an early answer; and, *with a resolution to RETIRE in RESPECTFUL and SILENT DEFERENCE to His Royal Highness's pleasure, be it what it may,*

I have the honor to be, my Lord, your Lordship's obedient and very respectful servant,

Wm. CAREY.

P. S. I will thank your lordship to return the two volumes called "*Atrocious Accusation*," (which accompany this) with His Royal Highness's decision; as they are now the only copies in my possession, and the pamphlet is out of print.

April 5th, 1813.

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*Intended Deposition, forwarded with the above.*

No. 2.

William Carey, resident housekeeper, at No. 35,

Mary-le-bone Street,\* Piccadilly, London, this day came before me, to prevent all doubt of his motives in the matter herein specified, and to disprove any surmise or aspersion, that he was either directly or indirectly induced thereto by an Illustrious Female, by any members of the royal family, or by any other person; and maketh oath, that in July and August, in the year of our Lord 1806, this deponent, being then a temporary resident in Bristol, and latterly in Bath, he read, with extreme concern and indignation, certain atrocious libels, printed and circulated through the kingdom, in a London newspaper, called the \*\*\*\*\*; of which newspaper, according to the best of his recollection and belief, the first number or publication was printed only a few months before, about the time of, or immediately after, the formation of the Fox and Grenville administration: *And* this deponent maketh oath, that it appeared to him the said libels were malignantly written, printed, and published, to maintain the credit of a heinous accusation, charged against the consort of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, under the designation of "An illustrious Female," and also by her proper title of "the Princess of Wales," expressly setting forth, that she had been *delivered of a MALE CHILD*, of *which delivery*, said libels asserted, *some persons of distinction* had been induced, *by a sense of duty, to give information, and were ready to confirm that information upon oath.* This deponent also maketh oath, that, on reading the aforesaid libels, he was of opinion that their authors, *wickedly hoping to take advantage of Her Royal Highness's long-continued state of conjugal separation, and falsely deeming the then state of parties in the cabinet to afford a favorable opportunity for HER DESTRUCTION, sought,*

\* Since removed to No. 37, in the same street.

*through the medium of the press, to prepare the public mind for the completion of their object, by fastening a charge of adultery upon her, to deprive her of all public sympathy, blast her character, and ultimately enable them to affect her life.*

This deponent also maketh oath, that he was not then nor since connected with any political party whatever; and from the most unbiased and anxious consideration, which he could give to the aforesaid libels, and the indirect support which they received from other publications, he could not help entertaining a *firm conviction of their UTTER FALSEHOOD*: And, from the circumstance of those newly-broached slanders being published *with impunity*, in a newly-established journal, generally supporting the measures of the newly-established administration; from the *tone of confident authority* which the libellers assumed, and from a *PRE-EXISTING COMBINATION* of interests *HOSTILE* to the union of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales and his illustrious consort; above all, from the *profound sentiment of respect* with which the libellers affected to write of His Royal Highness the Prince, at the very moment when they sought to destroy the character of his illustrious consort, this deponent was also of opinion, that there existed a *WICKED CONSPIRACY*, set on foot by some evil-minded persons, enemies of that august pair, the Prince and Princess, who disloyally hoped to grow into favor, by fomenting divisions in the Royal House, to build their fortunes upon the ruin of our future sovereign's *INNOCENT CONSORT*, and, by abusing the Prince's ear with criminal forgeries, to subject her to the capital punishment of high treason, an *IGNOMINIOUS DEATH UPON THE SCAFFOLD*.

This deponent, also, maketh oath, that entertaining this unbiased and involuntary view of circumstances, the case of His Royal Highness the Prince

of Wales's ILLUSTRIOUS CONSORT came upon him *like the CRY OF ONE in JEOPARDY, in the hour of midnight*; and his conscience rose within him, and would not permit him to remain still: it appeared to him as if *A DEED OF BLOOD* was about to be perpetrated; and that for him to stand by in silence, would be to become an accomplice in the crime. Impelled by these feelings, this deponent was induced, in July and August, in the year 1806, to endeavour to counteract the libels above mentioned, without any view or expectation of present or future reward, profit, or worldly advantage to himself; but, solely, upon PUBLIC GROUNDS, through motives of justice and humanity, a sense of duty to God, his king, and country, arising from his being impressed with the preceding opinions, and also believing that the said libels had a direct tendency, in a season of unprecedented distress and calamity, to discourage all good subjects, furnish new food for discontent, scandalize and disparage the royal family, impair the dignity of the throne, throw a public dishonor upon His Royal Highness, the illustrious husband of the accused Princess, involve her royal father and sovereign in deep and incurable affliction, discredit the realm in the eyes of all foreign states, and expose the nation to the evils of an uncertain, or disputed title to the crown.

This deponent also maketh oath, that, being moved by the aforesaid belief and opinions, being a personal stranger to the whole of the royal family, having no interest to uphold the character of any one of its members above another, and believing the honor and welfare of the royal family to be inseparable from the honor and welfare of the public, and the honor and welfare of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales to be inseparable from the honor and welfare of his illustrious consort; entertaining an *humble* but *ardent hope* of contributing to the RE-UNION OF THE PRINCE AND

PRINCESS ; and holding every faction and interested political combination in abhorrence ; this deponent did, of his own thought and motion, and without the instigation, request, or recommendation of any other person, in the months of July and August, 1806, write, and cause to be printed and published in the newspapers called the Bristol Mercury, and Blackburn Mail, and also in a pamphlet called "ATROCIOUS ACCUSATION," a series of letters, under the signature of "Humanitas," with his initial, "C—," for *the vindication of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales's illustrious Consort,* and to expose the *wicked artifices of her enemies ;* of which letters and pamphlet, with some typographical corrections, saving the manuscript remarks, the volume now produced to be attested is an original copy, published in the year 1806, by the London and Bristol booksellers.

This deponent also maketh oath that he was not, ever, a part proprietor of, nor had he any pecuniary interest in, the Bristol Mercury, the Blackburn Mail, or pamphlet called "Atrocious Accusation ;" that he did not, then nor since, receive any pay, reward, advantage, or compliment, whatever, for writing the said letters signed "C— Humanitas ;" that, so far from having any prospect of personal advantage in writing said letters, he wrote them under a strong apprehension and belief that he would, thereby, expose himself and his personal interests to calumny, injury, and danger ; that as he presumes, from a misconstruction or misrepresentation of his motives, he has reason to believe he has suffered, and does now suffer in his interests, from his having written them ; that his apprehension in the year 1806 was not confined to himself, because the first printer partook of a similar apprehension, so strongly, as to stipulate that this deponent should engage to bear all legal expenses, fine, confinement, and consequences, in case of any

prosecution being commenced against the printers or publishers, for printing and publishing the said letters, signed "C—— Humanitas." And this deponent, in his earnestness to vindicate His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales's illustrious Consort ; to discharge a duty to his own conscience, and in *the hope of one day seeing the re-union of their Royal Highnesses*, did grant the said printer leave to give the name of this deponent up, in said case, as the author ; and did expressly engage himself to be responsible for said letters, and to bear the entire legal expenses, fine, confinement, and consequences, of any prosecution for the said publication, in his own person and property, by avowing himself to the prosecutors as the writer and author. This deponent also maketh oath, that the apprehension of prosecution was so strongly felt by the printer of the Blackburn Mail, that, after having printed half a sheet of another pamphlet written by this deponent, as a further vindictory statement of Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales's case, in September, 1806, he (the said printer) suppressed the publication and manuscript altogether, even at some loss to himself, and contrary to this deponent's wish and remonstrances, although he (this deponent) had given him a prior written engagement, allowing the printer and publishers to exonerate themselves, by giving up the name of the author, in case of any prosecution for printing and publishing said pamphlets and letters, signed "C—— Humanitas." This deponent also maketh oath, that he was not, in the year 1806, or at any time since, at the residence of Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, at Blackheath, or elsewhere ; that he had not the honor to speak with that illustrious lady, nor to receive any communication from her through any person, on her behalf, on the subject of her vindication, or on any other subject ; that Her Royal Highness had no knowledge what-

ever of his having undertaken to write said letters in her vindication; that he has never, by letter or otherwise, either directly or indirectly, taken any steps to make himself known to Her Royal Highness, as the author of said letters in her vindication; or to introduce himself to her notice in any other character; that, although he has never heard of any, yet, if there be any negligence of expression, or impropriety in his mode of attempting to vindicate so high a branch of the royal family, that error and impropriety are chargeable upon his ill state of health, and the haste with which he was obliged to write, in order to be in time for the hour when the Bristol Mercury went to press; that he wrote *with the singleness of an honest impartiality, with a thorough conviction that the HONOR of ONE BRANCH OF THE ROYAL FAMILY IS THE HONOR OF ALL*; that if any other lady had been in the place of the accused princess, he would have taken the same steps in her behalf; and that he has manifested as anxious an earnestness, under a different signature, to vindicate the Prince Regent, in an instance \* where he considered the conduct of His Royal Highness a subject of unmerited obloquy: in this latter instance, also, this deponent took up the pen upon *public grounds*, of his own motion, and discharged a duty to his conscience at his own expense.

This deponent, also, maketh oath, that he never used any means to make himself known as the author of said letters, in vindication of her Royal Highness, beyond mere casual conversation or correspondence with a † few friends, or acquaintances,

\* A fact totally distinct from "the Delicate Investigation," and no way relating to the Princess of Wales.

† The fact of my having written these letters was unavoidably known at the printing-office of the Bristol Mercury, from my having had to call there for the proofs, and from the printer's boy having to call on me for the manuscript, and often

until nearly six years after they were written, in the year 1812, when Mr. Perceval, in reply to Mr. Whitbread in the House of Commons, made a public declaration, amounting to an acknowledgment of the innocence of her Royal Highness, which from the first this deponent never for an instant doubted; and that he never made himself known as the author of said letters to Mr. Perceval, to any other member of administration, or nobleman, in the confidence of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, until shortly after Mr. Perceval, on the occasion just herein mentioned, in 1812, had made the above acknowledgment, amounting to a declaration of the innocence of Her Royal Highness the Princess, his illustrious Consort. This deponent maketh oath, that his belief of the innocence of the accused, in this case, was founded in the audacious attempts of her enemies and libellers to destroy her character in the mind of the public, without having allowed Her Royal

to wait at my lodgings, while I finished detached sheets of the letters. Some of my friends, in their visits to me, saw me when writing them. From the circumstance of my having sent copies of the newspapers and pamphlet gratuitously to correspondents in different parts of the country, and from their knowledge of my style of writing, they became acquainted with the fact. I was thus known to be the author, although I had not publicly avowed myself as such. I had reason to think that Butler, the Blackburn printer, hinted it, in confidence, to some of his friends. How else Sir John Douglas came to know it, I never could learn; but he obtained accurate information that my second pamphlet was in the printer's hands; and his threatening letters, at length, contributed to frighten Butler from proceeding. One of these epistles contained this warning—"Mr. Carey may think to blacken me and Lady Douglas, as conspirators, with impunity; but if there be law in England, he shall feel it. Tell him I never forget a benefit, nor *forgive an injury*." In another he asked Butler for my address, *to hold a conference*, and give me a *satisfactory explanation*. Butler received three of his letters, but, by my advice, never paid him the compliment of an answer. I never saw him; but his vindictive efforts to injure me in my business only terminated with his life.



Highness the opportunity of a fair and open trial ; and that he was first induced, in the year 1812, after said declaration of her innocence by Mr. Perceval, to communicate with a nobleman in the Prince Regent's circle, with Mr. Perceval, and another member of administration, on the subject of the letters signed " C—— Humanitas," from a sense of justice to himself, and of duty to the royal family ; and also from an opinion that, as the circumstance of her false accusers having escaped without prosecution, and with impunity, had become a subject of much injurious conjecture and public regret, it became this deponent's duty to afford His Royal Highness the Prince Regent an opportunity, apart from any legal question of the truth or falsehood of the accusers, of at once discouraging the libellers of the royal family, infusing energy into the public opinion, and doing justice to his own feelings, by signifying his high pleasure upon the conduct of this deponent, as the disinterested and voluntary vindicator of his illustrious Consort ; who, from motives of conscience, humanity, and public duty only, when calumny was at its height, in the worst hour of her calamity, in a season of doubt and intimidation, had the courage to step from his own private path in life, and set an example to others, by taking up his pen, and lifting his humble voice in her behalf. Finally, this deponent maketh oath, that, to remove all doubt of his conduct, and to set the integrity of his intentions in the clearest light, he accompanied his said communication to Mr. Perceval with an express declaration to the following general purport, though in other words : that as it was contrary to his wish and intention to trespass by reiterated communications, he deemed it right to declare that, even in case of an unfavorable result, he was resolved to retire in respectful deference, and forbear from any further application on

the subject, which from that time until his recent letter to Lord Viscount Castlereagh, in the present month of March, 1813, he has strictly fulfilled by abstaining from all application after the receipt of Mr. Secretary Ryder's communication. And this deponent makes oath, that now, as in the preceding year, his communication with administration originated of his own thought and motion, without the advice, consultation, or knowledge of any political party whatever;—that this deposition is privately made, to set the integrity of his intentions in the whole of this case, herein set forth, in a full and clear light before His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, and his counsellors in administration; and with a firm belief that His Royal Highness's verbal or written approbation of the principle upon which this deponent acted, in vindicating his illustrious Consort, would have a salutary effect upon the mind of the public: and he feels it his duty to avow his resolution to retire, in silent and respectful deference to His Royal Highness's pleasure, be it what it may.

I am ready to depose to the above, whenever called upon.

Wm. CAREY.

London,  
35, Mary-le-bone Street,  
Piccadilly, April 5, 1813.

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*The Answer.*

Whitehall, 15th April, 1813.

Sir,

I am directed by Lord Sidmouth to acknowledge the receipt of your memorial, dated 22d March last, together with its inclosure, and two books which accompanied it, which are herewith returned.

I am, at the same time, to acquaint you, that the subject of your memorial having been already

under consideration, Lord Sidmouth does not feel himself authorized, consistently with the discretion which His Royal Highness the Prince Regent has been pleased to command his Lordship to exercise respecting petitions, to bring the subject again under His Royal Highness's consideration.

I am,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,  
J. BECKETT,

Mr. W. Carey,  
35, Mary-le-bone Street,  
Piccadilly.

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*Memorial sent after that returned with the above.*

To His Royal Highness, George Augustus Frederic, Regent of the United Kingdom, Prince of Wales, &c.

The humble memorial of Wm. Carey, resident housekeeper, at No. 35, Mary-le-bone Street, Piccadilly, London, sheweth, *That* in the months of July and August, 1806, when the character and life of a distinguished member of the royal family, the next in joint succession to the throne of this realm, were attacked and endangered, this memorialist, voluntarily (and partaking of a common apprehension of thereby incurring much risk of loss and injury to himself) did make a zealous and earnest effort for the vindication and safety of that royal personage, and thereby set an example of disinterested loyalty to all good subjects, and rendered an important service to the royal family and the state.

That the main particulars of the above mentioned service have been laid before the Right Honorable Lord Viscount Castlereagh, the Right

Honorable Lord Viscount Sidmouth, the Right Honorable Lord Eldon, in their official capacity as members of His Majesty's cabinet and privy council, accompanied with an express request of this memorialist, that their lordships would be pleased to examine him, and other competent evidence in proof of said service, if they entertained any doubt upon the subject. And this memorialist humbly submits the consideration of said service to your Royal Highness's deliberation, and prays that, in your wisdom, you will be graciously pleased to honor him with that distinguished mark of your favor, *an official approbation of the principle upon which he performed said important service for the royal family and the state.*

And this memorialist,  
With a deep sense of gratitude,  
Will ever pray.

April 16, 1813, 35, Mary-le-bone  
Street, Piccadilly, London.

April 22d, 1813.

My lord,

It is not without extreme concern that I feel myself obliged to trespass again upon your valuable time; but I am happy to hope that this will be the last detailed paper which I shall have occasion to trouble you with. My *absence\* from London* since the 24th of March, which deprived me of access to my documents, and threw me

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\* I was in Northampton on business of my own, during my absence from London, and I saw many amateurs of the town and country at my lodgings, while I was there. I returned to London on the 6th of May, (1813) being absent from March 24th. This letter was dated from my house in town, because I expected to return to London in a few days; and if I had directed it from Northampton, the answer must have been delayed in the post-office, and perhaps mislaid.

upon recollections in the whole of my communications to your lordship and LORD ELDON,\* prevented my receiving from Mrs. Carey the copy of your communication of the 16th inst. through Mr. BECKETT, your official secretary, until three days after. In that communication, you have the goodness to acknowledge the receipt of the two books (the printed copies of "Atrocious Accusation") and my memorial to His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, delivered with my letter of the 5th inst. at your office on the 8th. You also state your return of my memorial to His Royal Highness, *undelivered*; and Mrs. Carey informs me she received the memorial *unopened*, and the two books immediately after. Your messenger delivered them at my house.

Your lordship does me the honor to inform me, in Mr. Beckett's letter, that the subject of my memorial having been already under consideration, you do not feel yourself authorised, *consistently with the discretion which His Royal Highness the Prince Regent* has been pleased to command your lordship *to exercise respecting petitions*, to bring the subject, *again, under His Royal Highness's*

\* I took the liberty of forwarding to his lordship a copy of my memorial to the Prince Regent; a copy of the preceding form of intended deposition, marked No. 2, and a copy of the pamphlet called "*Atrocious Accusation*," containing my letters, signed "*Humanitas*," and marked with my initial "C." They were delivered by Mrs. Carey, at his lordship's house, in Bedford Square, on the 14th of April, 1813, with a letter, respectfully submitting the whole case to his lordship's impartial consideration on its private and public grounds; avowing my readiness to undergo any examination, and my intention to abide in silence the determination of the Prince Regent, in case of failure; as it was my wish to remove all possible doubt from the minds of His Royal Highness's advisers. His lordship retained the whole of the documents. But I sent some weeks after for the pamphlet; and it was obtained by Mrs. Carey, on her signing a receipt, in proof of its having been returned.

*consideration.* I beg leave to express my unfeigned acknowledgments for the favor of your early determination : and here, my lord, I would willingly retire with a sense of personal obligation for your prompt attention. But I might be justly charged with a failure in duty to my own family and my character, were I to leave myself open to any mis-representation or censure in this transaction. There can be only two grounds pointed out, upon which the prayer of my memorial, for the *simple official approbation* of the Prince Regent, can be objected to: the one, that, in the opinion of your lordship, and the other counsellors of His Royal Highness, the wording or form of my memorial is defective ; the other, that in defending and vindicating his illustrious Consort, I was, *in the opinion of your lordship, or His Royal Highness's other counsellors, guilty of an offence and a crime against the Prince.* I apologise for even attempting these suppositions. I could not, even if so inclined, decide with certainty upon your lordship's motives, or those of His Royal Highness's other counsellors. The high conception which I have ever held of your lordship's settled, conscientious principles, forbids my admitting a thought of your at all inclining to the latter opinion. I presume if there were any informality in the drawing up of my memorial, it would not influence your decision. You have not objected to the form and wording ; and I have been so careful in expressing myself with the becoming duty of a British subject, that I am confident its language is unobjectionable. I fear that you are not thoroughly convinced of the painful sensations of disgust and abhorrence produced by the impunity and favor of the conspirators against Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales in the year 1806. Their recent atrocious attempt to blacken and blast her honor, by their petition to

parliament, has given the public indignation and alarm a still stronger direction against an high interest in the state. The general belief that they are encouraged and protected at court, is so pregnant with disunion, and so calculated to divide the affections of the people, that the counsellors of the Prince Regent are bound as speedily as possible to provide an antidote for this alarming and growing evil. I respectfully repeat it, that the impunity and favor enjoyed by the conspirators, who sought to bring his illustrious Consort to an ignominious death, have given a shock to public morals, pointed a dark suspicion against their supposed protectors and encouragers, and turned aside the manly current of public feeling. It behoves you, then, on public grounds, involving the honor and dignity of the Prince Regent, the life and honor of his illustrious Consort, the undoubted succession of the Princess Charlotte, the interests of the monarchy, and the public tranquillity, to allay the afflicting *doubts* produced by the high favor and promotion of the chief conspirators against the Princess of Wales. I trust you will weigh well and seriously, whether you ought not to hasten to His Royal Highness, her august natural protector, and to lay before him, as a means of contributing to effect a great public good, the memorial of a man, who, in the crisis of her danger, exerted his best abilities to vindicate and defend Her Royal Highness from those conspirators. In the persons of Sir John Douglas and his Lady, conspiracy has met with honor and encouragement. Impunity is the nurse of crimes, and the proper soil in which conspiracies flourish. The safety and preservation of Her Royal Highness, therefore, absolutely require that the principle of vindicating and defending her should be honored with the public approbation and favor of her illustrious natural protector, in order to show that

further conspiracy against the Princess will be branded with detestation by all the Royal Family, and visited with the severest vengeance of the law. As the spontaneous vindicator of the Princess of Wales, the voluntary opponent of those conspirators in 1806, I have forwarded my memorial for the Prince Regent to your office; and in so doing, I have afforded you an opportunity of discharging a high and solemn duty to the King and your country.

Believe me, my lord, until the principle of conspiring against the Princess is put down, that is, until the conspirators of 1806 are branded and degraded by His Royal Highness, and the principle of defending and vindicating her life and honor is publicly honored and approved of in my person as the opponent of those conspirators, the Princess lives, and will live, in hourly danger of fresh conspiracies. If you had leisure to consider the public grounds on which my memorial rests, I think you would throw up your official situation, and retire into honorable private life, before you would become a partner in advising its rejection. It becomes me now, therefore, to place the whole of my statements in a\* permanent form, so as that you may not lose sight of them, now or hereafter. Death, fire, and other accidents, have destroyed some of my evidences within the course of now nearly seven years; and I am obliged to give them a fixture before other evidences also perish. I still hope, if any information be wanting on the subject, that the task of open, impartial examination, will not be deemed inconsistent with the duty of His Royal Highness's advisers; and if I do not give them full satisfaction, under all the circumstances stated in

\* Adverting to the intended deposition which I had sent to his lordship, and is termed in his reply "*its inclosure.*"



my memorial, then I challenge exposure, disgrace, and punishment; when, on the contrary, I have resolved every question, I shall as confidently submit to the issue.

So far as your view of the case extends, I am convinced of your pure intentions; and if, in every instance, it is an inviolable rule of state *not* to admit a *second memorial*, or petition, to the throne, then I have neither a right nor a wish to complain of your refusal to present mine. It will then be my duty and my pride to shew my respect for your decision as a settled principle of state. But if the rule be not absolute, and if a *second memorial* or petition be not forbidden by inviolable official forms, or positive statute, I hope and trust in a case of so much importance and delicacy to the royal family, and to the public, you will not deem it incompatible with your duty to change your determination. No subject can too strictly honor and obey the just commands of the Prince Regent; but His Royal Highness has in his wisdom *confided the presentation of memorials to your free discretion*; and there is no man more disposed to anticipate your just exercise of that power generally than I am.

Where a new minister comes into office, I may presume he is not bound indifferently by all the acts of his predecessors. A bad administration would, in that case, entail and perpetuate a train of evil measures upon its successors. I may conclude, that whenever a *new* member of the cabinet discovers an erroneous, unjust, or injurious act of his predecessors, it is his bounden duty to advise his sovereign to reconsider and amend it: and I may reasonably infer, that he is not precluded from advising a reconsideration of any case or memorial, merely because a former minister advised a decision upon it; but, because he, himself, approves of the justice and wisdom of the

prior decision. The FOX and GRENVILLE administration, or some of their leading members, advised His Majesty to a measure tending to aggrieve the Princess of Wales. The succeeding administration advised to reverse it; and His Majesty happily adopted their better counsel. Your lordship was not in office when my memorial was received in 1812. You are therefore not precluded from giving your own sense upon the vital question, whether the Prince Regent, in 1813, ought, or ought not, to approve or condemn the vindicator of his illustrious Consort in 1806. I am obliged to repeat, that it appears to me, you cannot disapprove and discountenance the vindicator, without, by that very act, affording an approbation and a countenance to the false accusation and the accusers; for those two conclusions are as inseparable in every impartial mind as daylight from the sun. On the contrary, if you approve of the vindication, and countenance the vindicator, you discredit the accusation and the accusers in the same degree. *The approbation conferred upon the one, will be a moral condemnation and prosecution of the other.*

Pardon, my lord, the freedom of a man, who from a sense of having merited an honorable approbation, addresses you without reserve, and with an earnest wish to manifest his respect and deference, by frankness and sincerity. If you bring home this case to yourself, as every honorable man will, how would you receive the vindicator and defender of the honor and life of your lady, the mother of your children? Could you, or any man, consider the person who would advise you against that vindicator, and would suppress his letter of application for your simple approbation of his voluntary and disinterested effort in her defence and vindication, could you consider him in any other light, but as the deadly

enemy of your lady ; the foe to your peace and re-union ; the friend, encourager, and protector of the false accusers and their accusation ? My lord, excuse me, if I thus calmly shew you the ground to which you are advancing, and the light in which you and every one must appear, who take their stand upon that ground, and with that companionship. I speak hypothetically, without the shadow of imputation, as of an act not effected, and an agent not yet committed : but it is as clear as the sun at noon-day, that the friends of your lady would be friendly to her vindicator, and the friends, encouragers, and protectors of her false accusers only would be hostile to him. The very person, who would advise you against her vindicator, must either admit his enmity to your lady, and his determination to prevent your re-union, and keep open the breach in your peace ; or he must acquit himself of that odious and criminal character, by charging you with a settled unmanly hostility to your lady, and to her vindicator, upon the single ground of his having vindicated her. He must endeavour to account for his unwillingness and refusal to present her vindicator's letter, applying for your approbation, by whispering a charge against you, that you were unwilling to receive, and determined to refuse a hearing to any thing tending to vindicate and maintain the honor of your lady. He must, thus, stigmatise you, my lord, to acquit himself, and must necessarily subject you to the odious suspicion of being favorable to the false accusers : for if he were to admit that you were inclined to maintain the honor of your consort, proud of her acquittal, and grateful to her vindicator, he must admit himself to be a monster unfit for the society of men. I apprehend there is no force of reasoning, party policy, or official form, can stand against the dispassionate, but home and honest argument of this analagous illustration.

Still further, my lord : *if there existed a conspiracy against your consort in the first instance, would not the act of your being so easily prevailed upon to withhold your countenance and approbation from her vindicator, furnish strong and sufficient grounds for a general surmise, that the conspiracy, although baffled in one attempt, still existed, and only waited for another opportunity to effect its object?*

Again, then, I entreat your lordship to weigh well how you commit your irreproachable name; and to reflect in time, how, in the world's eye, by any unsteady or inadvertent movement, you causelessly commit the glory of your royal master, the maintenance of whose dignity is so dear to every subject, because the maintenance of that dignity in all its undiminished lustre and pre-eminence is inseparable from the interest and prosperity of the state. The decision is in your own voice. By persisting to withhold my memorial from His Royal Highness's eye, you will bar up the avenue to his royal breast, and *pass sentence, yourself, against the vindicator of his illustrious consort*, I respectfully mention this for your temperate consideration, and refer you to the preceding observations, with an anxious deference, resulting from my long habit of esteem for your public character. I am no flatterer; and I own I have ventured to doubt the perfect policy of some of your measures; but never, *hitherto*, the unshaken integrity of your motives and intentions. Your ultimate decision against my memorial can never change that opinion of your rectitude. If your refusal be wise, just, and calculated to infuse a sound temper into public opinion, to redound to the glory of the Prince Regent, the honor of the royal family, and the credit of government, the merit of the refusal will be wholly your's. If, on the contrary, your refusal be unjust, unwise, contrary to the true in-

ill become me to put up my sudden thoughts and indigested recollections against your solid experience and broad political comprehension. I submit myself on all these considerations to your better judgment, in the point of *form*. I do not mean that a memorial, decided upon this day, is to be indecorously pressed upon the sovereign to-morrow, contrary to the indelible sentiment of reverence with which the subject ought ever to approach the throne ; but upon new grounds, after the intermission of a year, with important changes in the times, a change in the administration, a revolution in public opinion, and a popular ferment, produced by the unhappy principle which rejected the first memorial, although the rejection never transpired from me ; I may hope, my lord, that the constitution, or the forms of office, not only do not forbid the presenting a second memorial, or petition, by positive statute or established usage, but that they sanction it : for, if they did not, the right of memorial or petition would be a nullity, and every erroneous decision irrevocable.

I am fully prepared to show, that the \* importance of the service which I performed is now more generally understood, and generally ascertained, than it was last year. With a strong conception that the life and honor of the Princess of Wales were aimed at by the conspiracy of the false accu-

\* This passage may seem obscure. I did not mean that I was more publicly known as the vindicator of the Princess of Wales ; but that the deep wounds inflicted upon public opinion and public confidence were every day more sensibly and widely felt in these kingdoms. The impunity of the conspirators was attended by circumstances of favor, which had a direct tendency to encourage fresh plots against her, and which excited general disgust, and a deep expression of abhorrence against Sir John Douglas and his lady, the iniquitous framers of the plot of 1806. If the Prince had been advised at this moment (March or May, 1813) to have granted his public approbation to an opposer of that conspiracy, his doing so would have had a most happy effect upon the public mind.

vers in 1806, I publicly maintained at the time that her Royal Highness was *innocent*, and that the charge was "a false and groundless calumny." Now, excepting a pre-existing hostility of criminal interests, which endeavours to countenance the conspirators, all England proclaims the innocence of the Princess. In 1806 I boldly expressed my conviction, "that there was a *conspiracy set on foot for the Princess's destruction.*" I was then deemed so singular and unreasonable in my opinion, that a political writer, of no mean note, and of great ability, considered me guilty of a folly approaching to madness; and endeavoured to instigate the false accusers to restore me to my senses by the discipline of the horsewhip. That writer, my lord, has now become a public convert to my opinion; and at the end of nearly seven years has virtually borne testimony to my superior penetration. With the above-mentioned exception, there is but one opinion among the people of England; that is the opinion which I maintained in 1806; and the Livery of London, last week, in their congratulatory address to Her Royal Highness, went so far as to assert that the life of the Princess was assailed—"by a FOUL and DETESTABLE CONSPIRACY, carried on by PERJURY and SUBORNED ACCUSERS."

Deeply as I lament the occasion, I honor the just and manly spirit of the Livery; but I never yet was of opinion, that the conspiracy *commenced* with *subornation*; and I am sorry to say I am now, also, deemed singular: I always thought *the accusers were suborned by their own false hopes and guilty imaginations.* They saw a fatal disunion; and they so far mistook the exalted nature of an august personage, as to form the criminal and false expectation of obtaining favor by abusing his ear with a fabrication, to effect the destruction of his innocent consort. They could never have hoped to succeed, unless they had, also, hopes of finding

persons *high in office*, my lord, of their disposition, *who would countenance them*, and *discourage, abash, and calumniate Her Royal Highness's vindicators*.

Certain it is, that, from the first, all honest men felt assured the friends and encouragers of the conspirators would prove the enemies and discouragers of her vindicators. It is for you, my lord, in my case, so far as relates to yourself, to disprove their expectations. I submit to your matured understanding, that here is one ground for your presenting my memorial, because *the circumstance of its being known that her vindicator was approved of and countenanced by His Royal Highness's counsellors, must not only shew their abhorrence of the false accusers and their accusation, but tend to discourage the enemies of Her Royal Highness from future conspiracy against her*. On the other hand, your persisting to refuse and reject her vindicator's memorial, on the single ungracious ground of an official form, must *give encouragement and countenance to the false accusers of 1806, and to other persons of their disposition, by confirming their false and criminal hopes that approbation and favor are not to be obtained by vindicating and defending Her Royal Highness, but by an opposite course*. Your presenting the memorial of her vindicator, therefore, would *have a salutary effect upon the public mind, and prove a future defence to the Princess, by encouraging her defenders and vindicators, and by abashing and deterring her enemies from future conspiracy*.

Here, again, my lord, I throw myself wholly out of the question. I state it dispassionately upon the broad ground of your duty to the public and the royal family, that *there is an absolute necessity* for your presenting my memorial; because your persisting in your refusal will exhibit the melancholy spectacle of your lordship, as the sworn

counsellor of the Prince Regent, officially excluding the vindicator of his consort from the Prince's approbation, and taking an adverse ground against him, *as if the very act of having vindicated the Princess had rendered him, in your opinion, an enemy, a criminal, and an offender, in the eyes of the Prince.* Notwithstanding the purity of your intentions, your refusal will I fear, my lord, be attended with most unhappy surmises; as to motives, and be misconstrued, in their own favor, by the conspirators against the Princess.

There can be nothing more probable than this conclusion, that so long as the false accusers are favored with impunity, and the vindicator marked with disapprobation and disfavor by the sworn counsellors of his Royal Highness, so long will fresh accusers see, in those relative circumstances, an encouragement to conspire against the honor and life of the Princess. Pardon the plain sincerity of my nature, when I say *there will be a tongue in the fact of your refusal, even if I were to-morrow in the grave, which will speak, and speak for ever.* Time and popular suggestion will link the fact of your refusal with the fact of the impunity and favor enjoyed by the conspirators; and before these links are formed into one indissoluble chain, it may be worthy your sedate and upright mind to advise the necessary steps, to render their junction impossible.

Another strong ground for your presenting my memorial, *now*, will be found in a comparison of my memorial of 1812, in Mr. Perceval's time, just before his death, with the written communication forwarded to me in the name of Mr. Secretary Ryder, by Mr. Beckett, his secretary. A perusal of the latter furnishes reason to doubt, either that my memorial, with the printed document, called "*Atrocious Accusation*," were not so duly laid before the Prince Regent, as to admit of his giving



them a mature consideration; or that the prayer and object of my memorial were unfortunately misconceived; or inconsiderately, and perhaps unintentionally misrepresented to His Royal Highness. I have neither the communications relative to that memorial, nor any copy of the memorial *here*,\* with me, but I believe it will be found, on a reference to them, that I deemed it my duty in 1812, to state the number of my family, the line that I am engaged in, subject, but not more than others, to the general pressure of the time of war, because I believed it necessary His Royal Highness should have the fullest information of my situation in life, to enable him to form his decision; and to convince him, by personal references of the first respectability, that, although I was above necessity, and in fair circumstances, I was not too high for his gracious countenance and favor. I conceived it reasonable to conclude, that when it was known I was commercially engaged in collecting works of art, the Prince Regent's counsellors would have advised that illustrious personage to honor me with a share of the countenance and patronage which he confers so graciously upon others. I confess I thought it not impossible that they might have recommended me to His Royal Highness, and humbly advised him to favor me with some permanent place, or one of my children with some appointment, as a *public approbation of my zeal in defending and vindicating his illustrious consort*. This was then my opinion. Surely, my lord, if you will pardon me for adverting to the circumstance, when the counsellors of His Royal Highness advised the Crown to punish the proprietors of the *Examiner* by prosecution, fine, and confinement, on a charge of having written, printed, and published a libel

\* In Northampton. These documents were in London.

against the Prince Regent, it was not a very improbable supposition that they would have seen the fitness, wisdom, and justice, of countenancing, and honoring with a permanent approbation, the man who had written, and caused to be printed and published, a series of letters, in vindication and defence of His Royal Highness's calumniated Princess:

My lord, I speak here in the protective spirit of law, without going into unnecessary technical forms. The principle of all judicial punishment is protective: it is the prevention of illegality, offence, and crime; not a principle of revenge, nor an infliction of vengeance. I may presume, therefore, without assuming a guilt on the part of those gentlemen, or arraigning their sentence, that the prosecution instituted against them by His Majesty's advisers was to deter others; to prevent the further publication of libels upon His Royal Highness, and thereby to erect, as it were, a moral and legal defence and protection for his name and character. Now, my lord, what does my memorial pray of the Prince Regent more than that his sworn advisers shall manifest, at least, something like this zeal for the Prince, in providing for the defence and protection of his most cruelly wronged and injured consort. His Royal Highness's advisers (I speak without venturing to impugn the justice of the sentence), have employed for his defence an ungracious and unpopular mode of punishment, a heavy forfeiture of property as a legal penalty, and a long and severe incarceration of two fathers of families in a prison. This may be considered as not the most likely means to conciliate public affection, on the eve of a new reign. But I would pray of the Prince, as her natural protector, to employ the more noble and generous mode of honor and reward, in defence and protection of his illustrious spouse

from further conspiracy. Posterity will judge which stands more in need of defence. The Prince, the most powerful sovereign in the world, surrounded by the whole power and influence of the crown, is in perfect safety. The Princess, since the recent high military promotion conferred on the chief conspirator against her life, by the sworn counsellors of her husband, has hourly reason to dread some fresh dark plot to blast her honor. She stands, at this moment, an exposed object; a butt for slander to shoot at, and a mark for conspiracy, in daily apprehension of evil, and terror for her life.

Besides that it is the paramount and sworn duty of the Prince Regent's advisers to rescue his Princess from this imminent peril, my memorial presents you with an opportunity of rendering His Royal Highness deservedly popular, and of terminating doubts and suspicions which may ultimately affect the establishment, touch the royalties of the Princess Charlotte, and scatter wide the seeds of heart-burning and danger in every direction.

There is also, if I descend from these high grounds of public principle, I conceive a just ground for receiving my present memorial, in the temporary incapacity, deranged, and wavering state of *His Royal Highness's counsellors, produced by the assassination of Mr. Perceval, and publicly recorded by the address of the House of Commons, entreating the Prince Regent to form another administration.* It was during this state of *suspended animation*, or temporary derangement in the cabinet, that I received Mr. Beckett's communications in Mr. Ryder's name; and this, also, I conceive is a good ground for a re-consideration of this important question.

To prevent all misconstruction, I now unequivocally state, that the prayer of my memorial is

*totally distinct from pecuniary reward; and, so far as a subject may venture to limit the favor of his sovereign, is confined to His Royal Highness's simple official approbation of the PRINCIPLE upon which I voluntarily, and, at an apprehended risk, vindicated and defended a distinguished member of the royal family in 1806. If I have the good fortune to obtain this, it will, when publicly circulated through the medium of the daily press, operate as a discouragement of further conspiracies, be a proof for the consideration of a succeeding administration, and a claim for my children in a future reign.*

In wording the second memorial, which I wrote, and despatched in a parcel to Mrs. Carey, for delivery at your office, on Saturday last,\* I have generalised every thing, if possible, to obviate every objection connected with particular details. But in expressly defining my prayer and my object, I hope I shall not incur a charge of disrespectfully and presumptuously attempting to dictate or limit His Royal Highness's gracious will. I am bound to

\* This memorial is that which is dated April the 16th, 1813, and which immediately precedes this letter. The reader will perceive, that I did not, as in my memorial, only eight days before, mention the Princess of Wales in express terms, but indirectly, as a distinguished member of the royal family. This marked change furnishes full evidence to Lord Sidmouth of the disadvantageous effect produced in my mind by his refusal to deliver my memorial of the eighth of April, 1813. I began to feel a melancholy conviction, that there was an hostility so inveterate behind the curtain, that in my humble attempt to contribute to her safety, by discouraging further plots against Her Royal Highness, there was a necessity for suppressing her name. When that enemy died, a hope existed that the Princess had nothing more to fear. But the hired evidences levied upon the continent, by her own disloyal subjects, and paid out of the English taxes, to effect in 1820 what the conspirators failed to effect in 1806, leave no question, but that the conspiracy has never ceased to be in full force against Her Royal Highness.

submit myself to His royal pleasure in the determination, be it what it may.

My lord, I would grieve to press my request, if contrary to your private sense of rectitude. I entreat you will have the goodness to believe me, that in the whole of the preceding observations I have adverted to *actions*, and to the *official advice* given, without meaning to cast any censure or imputation on the ultimate *object* of the *official agents* or *advisers*. If in my hurry of writing, and an inability to express my meaning clearly, or, in the anxious anticipation of public consequences to Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, I have any where expressed myself doubtfully, I solicit your candid and favorable interpretation. It is not in my nature to throw out unnecessary personal reflections; and as the official advisers are not certainly known to me, I cannot have any wish to give them personal offence: but I am concerned on the public grounds herein set forth, again to request you will have the goodness to present my memorial, now in your hands, with an expression of my most humble duty to the Prince Regent; and you are aware how far circumstances prescribe the obligation of complying with my request, as a matter of *common right*, or allow you to persist in your refusal.

I apologize for this long and painful intrusion. I have neither a wish nor an intention to repeat it.

I am your lordship's respectful servant,

Wm. CAREY.

To the Right Honorable  
Lord Viscount Sidmouth.

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Here, in April, 1813, finally closed my efforts, with the ministers of the Prince Regent, to obtain,

in any form, written or verbal, honorary or remuneratory, an official recognition and encouragement of the principle of vindicating and defending his Princess; and a discouragement of further plots and conspiracies against her life and honor. All my papers in 1806-12, and 18, marked my correct anticipation of the conspiracy in 1820. I never received any reply from Lord Sidmouth, but his official letter, dated the fifteenth of April. The Lord Chancellor received my communications, and maintained an inviolable silence. According to the report of Mr. Whitbread, and the information received by the Princess of Wales, that great law authority's sanction was otherwise bestowed.

When in Northampton, in April, 1813, I applied to Mr. Newby, the mayor of that town, to take my deposition on the subject-matter of the intended affidavit, marked 2 in this work. That gentleman referred me to the senior magistrate, Mr. Smith, who refused to act. I found a spirit of intimidation and time-serving extended to the metropolis. But, in the ensuing year, on the fifteenth of July, after other refusals, I deposed at the Mansion House in London, before William Denville, Esq. to the tenor of the intended affidavit (No. 2.) in a much more extended form, to preserve it as a document for future history. Mrs. Carey also deposed at the same time before his lordship, to such parts of the subject as fell within her own belief and knowledge. I had the two affidavits printed that year, in an octavo tract of fourteen closely printed pages; but I have never permitted a copy to be circulated.

Above eight years have now passed, since in March, April, and May, 1812, I first made myself known, upon public grounds, to the Prince Regent's advisers, as the vindicator of his injured Consort in 1806. Luckily, favor or promotion

were not my motives in taking up my pen, for if they had, I had mistaken the road. I had uniformly mentioned in my communication to the ministers in 1812 and 13, that, in case my memorial proved unsuccessful, I would retire in silence. I have kept my word. As I took up my pen, on public grounds, for the defence and *safety* of the Princess in 1806, I remained silent until 1812, during nearly six years, upon the same principle of public duty. In 1812, when the first rumour of the second conspiracy spread abroad; on similar disinterested grounds, although my own personal advantage was, then, connected in the most honorable way with the public good, I opened a communication with Lord Yarmouth and the sworn counsellors of the Prince Regent, to establish a public protective principle for Her Royal Highness's defence and safety. I acted upon the same public principle in 1813. The infamous knight and his infamous lady were the chief agents in the conspiracy of 1813, and were permitted to escape with impunity and favor, as they had done in 1806. But although plot and treason beset the steps of the Princess, and whoever became an evil to that persecuted lady was welcomed as a good; the reader will learn, and history record, with what discountenance, disfavor, repulsion, and insult, the sworn advisers of her august husband shut out and rejected the spontaneous vindicator and defender of her life and honor; and in his person and memorial, refused an approbation and encouragement to the principle of defending and vindicating her Royal Highness. The honor and reward conferred upon the conspirators might encourage others to conspire, but there was no encouragement for her defence or protection. The danger, inhumanity, and insult, to which she was exposed, drove her to the melancholy necessity of quitting

the realm, to the great grief of her friends and joy of her enemies. Her exile was an important point gained by the conspiracy : and we have recently discovered, from the debates on the green bag, how those unknown advisers, who would not grant a word, or a written official approbation, as a provision for her safety, have prostituted the public character of this country, and squandered the taxes, wrung from the necessities of the people, in seducing, bribing, and hiring her domestics to depose for the destruction of the Queen of England.

August 25th to September 11, 1820.

THE END.

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A HISTORY of the CONSPIRACIES of 1806 and 1813, against the PRINCESS of WALES; and of the CONSPIRACY of 1820, against the QUEEN of ENGLAND;

BY WM. CAREY.

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\*.\* *Authentic Documents and Communications are earnestly solicited.*

37, Mary-le-bone Street, Piccadilly,  
September, 1820.

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B. CLARKE, Printer, Well-Street, London.



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